Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-232
Monday
6 December 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Committees Resume Talks 5 Dec

NC0512112193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The reduced Palestinian-Israeli committee discussing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed its meetings in Cairo today.

The Palestinian side is headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli side is led by Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff of the Israeli army.

Informed sources told MENA that today the delegations will try to remove the major differences hindering the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement by 13 December, which is the date specified in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

The Israelis had asked to postpone the implementation for a few weeks on the pretext of working to resolve the differences, but the Palestinians categorically rejected this and demanded that Israel implement the agreement on the set date.

The two sides disagree on several basic points, notably the size of Jericho, the deployment of the Israeli forces on the border between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan, a timetable for the release of the Palestinian prisoners in Israel, and the scope of the Israeli military presence to protect the settlements.

Meanwhile, the two subcommittees of the Gaza-Jericho Committee began meetings in Cairo and al-'Arish to discuss security and civilian aspects related to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The security subcommittee, meeting in Cairo, is discussing arrangements related to the crossing points, the mines planted by Israel on the border between the West Bank and Jordan, and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The civilian subcommittee, meeting in al-'Arish, is discussing the transfer of civilian powers and services to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

Agreement To Delay Withdrawal Denied

TA0612053493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Sources close to the Israeli delegation for the talks with the Palestinians believe that the parties will not reach accord next week, by 13 December, in the Cairo and al-'Arish talks. At the same time, the sources stressed that no agreement has been made between the delegations to delay the beginning of the implementation of the agreement. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that there still is a series of issues over which there is no agreement.

Sha'th Blames Israel for Lack of Progress

PM0312115093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 5

[Report by Afhraf al-Faqiyy: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: No Progress in Security Committee Meetings"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher twice during his tour of the Middle East region in order to discuss ways of ironing out the obstacles preventing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on the agreed dates. Sha'th told AL-HAYAH yesterday that an agreement has been reached to hold the first meeting in Tunis and that efforts are currently being made to agree on a venue for the second meeting. He said it is likely to be held in Cairo.

Sha'th pointed out that the Security Committee's meetings in Cairo under Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Bahr for the Palestinian side and General Eghmon [as transliterated] for the Israeli side have not achieved any progress so far with regard to eliminating the obstacles facing it, especially on border security, the size of the Jericho area, and control of the crossing points.

The Palestinian official rejected the Israeli delegation's proposals on Palestinian participation in securing the Palestinian border with Egypt and Jordan under Israeli control. He said that "securing the borders is a Palestinian responsibility."

He held the Israeli side responsible for the failure to achieve progress in the security committee's proceedings, which have entered their third day and will be concluded today. He said that "Israeli officials' statements have exposed their desire not to comply with the date for the start of the withdrawal, that is 13 December."

He stressed that the Palestinian delegation will continue the negotiation process so that Israeli officials will have no excuse for the talks' failure.

Sha'th stressed that the plan submitted by the Israeli delegation with regard to Palestinian prisoners and detainees "is incomplete." He said that "the Palestinians demand a list of all detainees and prisoners and a clear timetable [for their release] to be implemented as of 13 December until 13 April."

He said that the pressures the Israelis are exerting on the Palestinian side "have failed to change our position on the negotiation process, and they are not going to force us to offer any concessions."

Sha'th wondered: "Why do the Israelis insist on not withdrawing from all the Jericho area if they are serious about the full withdrawal process, which is expected to

begin next July?" He said that "Israel's insistence on arguing over the size of the Jericho area exposes its intention to procrastinate in the future." [passage omitted]

Transfer of Authority Differences Detailed

TA0612071893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that talks over the transfer of authority to the PLO are currently focused on transferring 25 out of 38 Civil Administration departments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the Israeli side wants to hand over only 12 departments now in addition to the labor, power, and communications departments and postpone the delivery of the others to a later stage. In response to an Israeli request, the Palestinians have agreed to keep the Civil Administration employees, especially department heads, at their jobs. It has been learned that a joint higher coordination committee will be formed to bridge the gap between the two sides.

In a related development, it has been learned that the Palestinians are demanding to acquire a Palestinian passport rather than an identity card only.

Jordan Interested in Resolving Israel Issues

PM0312110693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Rabin's Envoy Discusses With 'Arafat the Mounting Violence in the Occupied Territories"]

[Excerpts] Amman, Paris—The Jordanian Government has shown great interest in today's meeting of the U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian joint committee. On the violence front, parallel to the political efforts to promote a settlement, there is extreme escalating tension throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. That coincides with the presence of an envoy of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tunis for consultation with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a senior Fatah commander (formerly a supporter of the agreement) has urged an escalation of fighting against the Israeli occupation. Major General Muhammad Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge of military action inside the occupied territory, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "in light of massacres and liquidations to which our people in the occupied territories are subjected, our people, fighters, and mujahidin of all affiliations have a right to resist the Zionist enemy with all available means, which is the only thing the enemy understands."

That declaration came as Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was receiving a Hamas delegation in Tehran. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Velayati as saying that the two sides condemned the PLO-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

On the meeting of the U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian committee in Washington today, a Jordanian source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Amman that Jordan is interested in resolving numerous issues and problems pending between Jordan and Israel since the beginning of the bilateral peace negotiations as well as the multilateral negotiations between a number of Arab states, including Jordan, and Israel.

The Jordanian source added that the Jordanian Government is also interested in resolving the dispute with Israel regarding exploitation of the water of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers. That, he said, is still unresolved because of Israel's control of the major part of the waters of these two rivers, and Jordan also wants to resolve the issue of the Jordanian territory seized by Israel illegally in the areas of the Jordan Valley and Wadi 'Arabah. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid on Peace, Reconciliation, Somalia

NC0512110193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 5 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that the Arabs want genuine peace, not a "lame peace" that will not last.

He told journalists in Alexandria last night that peace is not a grant to the Arabs, who advocate peace and will not relinquish it. Israel should not think it is presenting a gift to the Arab world when it discusses peace, because it needs peace as much as the Arabs need it. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the idea of a Middle East market should not be frightening to the Arabs, because Israel or others cannot possibly control such a market. It is natural for every country to work for its interests, he said, urging a unified Arab position and readiness to discuss this subject. [passage omitted]

On his call for Arab reconciliation, the Arab League secretary general said he has received a positive response because his call appeals to the Arab public, which wants to see the Arab nation get together. He said reconciliation does not mean forgetting the past, but learning its lessons so that mistakes will not be repeated.

On the Somali crisis, 'Abd-al-Majid said he met with General Mohamed Farah Aidid, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, and other Somali leaders during the first reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa in January and urged them to cease fighting. Regrettably, however, struggles in the country are still continuing, he noted. [passage omitted]

Official Calls U.S. Decision on Sudan 'Hostile'

EA0112194593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. Adnan Amran, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has reasserted that all the accusations brought to bear on Sudan are based on political considerations connected with the strategy of some states on Sudan.

He went on to say in a press statement that there were states which had many years ago begun to plan to dismember Sudan by separating its north from its south, exploiting in the process many factors both within the region and outside it. He said these efforts had now advanced to a very threatening stage. It was possible that the report prepared by the U.S. Congress subcommittee following its meeting with the rebel leaders in support of what they call self-determination constituted an even more hostile step and sounded the alarm bell that some of the Western states still pursued the policy of fragmenting the Arabs and all the Arab states.

Mr. Adnan Amran called on the Arab states to be vigilant against the dangers of this hostile orientation and to work collectively to guard the Arab homeland and its essential needs as well as to protect the rights of Arab national security.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Forum Continues Meetings in Khartoum

Bosnian Envoy Urges Withdrawal From UN

EA0312140793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The People's Arab and Islamic Conference continued its second session at the Friendship Hall, in Khartoum, this evening. Mr. Mustafa Cabic, mufti of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, spoke during the evening session. He asked Arab and Islamic states to withdraw from the United Nations in protest against its negative stands towards the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Cabic called for the resignation of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for his prejudice over the issue of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina called for the opening of donations in all Arab and Islamic states to support the steadfastness of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He proposed that every Muslim in the world donate an equivalent of $1 for the benefit of Bosnian Muslims. He affirmed that Bosnia-Herzegovina will never fall, hailing Sudan's support for Muslims in his country. [passage omitted]

Al-Turabi Attacks U.S. Policy

PM0312170493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Al-Turabi Attacks United States, Defends Iran"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Cairo—Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab Islamic Popular Conference, opened the conference's second session in Khartoum yesterday. He vehemently attacked the U.S. Administration, saying that it "has more success in running wars than in running peace initiatives." At the conference, which was attended by 400 political and religious figures from 60 countries, al-Turabi defended Iran, saying it is "working to make right prevail and to suppress falsehood, while the United States is seeking to bring it to its knees."

He described the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as "based on capitulation." He said that the Arab League submitted to "the return of Western colonialism to Somalia under the pretext of international legitimacy and the new world order." He called for achieving stability in Somalia and finding a solution to the problem. He urged Islamic peoples to "contribute to resolving the conflict in east Asia, Afghanistan, and the former Yugoslav republics."

In his address al-Turabi spoke about the Afghan war, which he said is "unjustifiable after the martyrs' blood watered the land that communism had desecrated."

He spoke about reorganizing the general secretariat of the conference, which was established in 1991, so that it will become more effective.

In press statements before the conference proceedings began, he criticized U.S. President Bill Clinton for receiving the British writer Salman Rushdie, saying that "contempt for the Islamic nation has reached such a point that a world leader no longer cares about what hurts Muslims' feelings, even in his protocol meetings." [passage omitted]

Egyptian Delegate Urges Dialogue

EA0412190593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)—The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, PAIC, will wind up its second session Saturday [4 December] and issue its final recommendations.

Secretary general of the Egyptian al-Ummal (Labour) Party, Adil Husayn, addressed the conference Friday calling on all Muslims to build a new civilization for the Islamic state which contradicts the Western model, pointing out that [the] Western model of muliparties system did not suit the social structures in most of the Islamic states.

He hailed the Islamic experiment in both Iran and Sudan, calling on all the Islamic states to follow suit.

The PAIC member Amir Atais from Tunisia asked the PAIC to start dialogue with the Westerners with whom we share [a] belief to establish better relations based on mutual interest, calling on PAIC to support the Palestinian intifida.

A representative of the Salvation Islamic Front of Algeria, al-Najib Anas, asked the PAIC to form a committee to mediate between the Salvation Islamic Front and the Algerian Government.

A number of PAIC members addressed the PAIC evening session tackling various issues concerning Moslems worldwide.

Palestinian Urges Opposing Blockades

EA0412190093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0918 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)—Secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Democratic Front Na'if Hawatimah has confirmed that the PAIC [Popular Arab and Islamic Conference] was convened at a crucial time when the Islamic world needs all support.

He added in a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI daily newspaper today that we wanted to translate in this conference the support of the nations into a real thing to face the vigorous blockade against Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Bosnia, and to strengthen the stand of the Palestinian people. He expressed hope of the organization that the conference would change to working plans, organizations and permanent committees in each of the Arab and Islamic states.

Bosnian Envoy Addresses Friday Prayers

EA0412183093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)—Mufti of Bosnia-Hercegovina Shaykh Mustafa Cabic assured that Serbs had damaged more than 800 mosques and Bosnia-Hercegovina citizens are in real dangers.

Shaykh Mustafa addressing the prayers following Jum'ah [Friday] prayer at al-Nilayn Mosque here stated that the Serbs' aggression against Bosnia never [word indistinct] the children's and women sanctity, pointing to the necessity of Muslims self-defence against their enemies.

Imam of al-Nilayn Mosque Shaykh Hasan Hamid called the conferees to work for the Islamic unity, adding that Israel is the first enemy of Arab and Muslims and its continue to realize its goals. Jews have no part in the long history, Shaykh Hamid said calling the Palestinians to unity their ranks to defence the land, and the Afghanians not to fight each other according to the Islamic values. [paragraph as received] [passage omitted].

Delegate Details Goals for Conference

EA0412182593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)—This conference has to bridge the gap by calling for Arab and Muslim unity, since the present Arab and Muslim organizations [have] proved redundant and unable to respond to peoples demands, PAIC [Popular Arab and Islamic Conference] member 'Abd al-Salam Sulayman told SUNA.

As regards the conference recommendations, some of them would [be] binding to the conference and its secretariat for execution, Sulayman said. The general recommendations pertinent to the issues discussed, they will help to create the necessary atmosphere for developing an Arab and Islamic public opinion, he said.

Since (?several) conferences do have influence on the people, he added, they will talk to their fellow citizens who will then urge the governments to serve their national interests.

The previous PAIC session, Sulayman said, has achieved success with respect to narrowing the differences in new points between Fatah and Hamas movements.

The conference will take the same course of action, he added, since the only beneficiaries from schism and discord are imperialism and Zionism. In this respect he referred to the fact that Israel has been exhausted by the Palestinian struggle, particularly by the Intifada.

This way, he added, Israel is working to turn the Palestinians against one another. This is a plot that should be foiled by the Palestinians who should mobilize efforts to face the real enemy, he concluded.

Sudan's Vice President Greets Egyptians

EA0412213093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The vice president of the republic, General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, stressed the need for integration between Egypt and Sudan and cooperation between the two countries in the field of investment. He stated that this would allow independence in decisionmaking and the avoidance of being pawns in the hands of foreign powers. This was said when General al-Zubayr met with an Egyptian delegation attending the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference. The meeting took place today at his office in the Republican Palace. His Excellency called for the forgetting of differences between the two fraternal countries.

For his part, Mr. Mustafa Mashhur, deputy to the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood and head of the Egyptian delegation to the conference, said that the two sides had confirmed the need to work to stop those media campaigns which did not help the development of relations, and to seriously seek to solve current problems between them.

Iraqi Delegate on 'Plot,' Embargo

JN0412212593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, which is currently being held in Khartoum, held a morning session today to discuss a number of topics on the agenda, including the unjust blockade against the people of Iraq and Libya and the issues of Sudan and Somalia.

The session was headed by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Hajji, member of the Yemeni General People's Congress. At the beginning of the session 'Abdallah Fadil, head of the Iraqi delegation, delivered a speech in which he affirmed that the meeting is being held amid serious and delicate circumstances. He noted that the Arab and Islamic nation and its plans for advancement and progress are being subjected to the most crucial challenge since the tragedy of Palestine.

An IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Khartoum said that 'Abdallah Fadil indicated that the anti-Iraq plot has not ceased. Rather, he said, the plot has assumed various forms and methods, represented by the continued unjust blockade on its people and the attempts to partition Iraq along ethnic and sectarian lines, harm its national independence and free options, and to intervene in its domestic affairs under various pretexts in the name of the new world order, so-called international legitimacy, and an alleged concern for democracy and human rights.

He added that the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Palestine is primarily an Arab and Islamic blockade rather than one that is imposed by Washington and its allies. He noted that this blockade took place through UN Security Council resolutions which reflect hypocrisy and double standards toward other peoples.

In a separate development, the conference elected Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference and member of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, as member of the committee entrusted with drafting the resolutions and recommendations of the final communique and with reviewing the organizational structure of the conference.

Al-Turabi Reviews Conference Resolutions

EA0512193093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Peoples' Conference [PAIC], reviewed the resolutions and recommendations issued during the final session of the conference yesterday evening. Dr. al-Turabi, addressing the press conference he called for this morning at the office of the conference secretary general, said that the conference declared its total rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and called on the Arab and Islamic nations not to normalize their relations with the enemy until the Palestine people restore their legitimate rights.

The conference called on the Arab and Islamic conference to rescue their brothers in Somalia with food and medicines and assist them to reconstruct what had been destroyed by war. He said the conference also called on the Afghan factions to stop fighting and reconciliate. Dr. al-Turabi also spoke of the need for the Arab and Muslims' unity and say the conference [word indistinct] formation of a committee to mediate for continuation of dialogue between the Muslim forces and the Arab forces and between the Arab and Islamic forces with a view to building and verifying of the Islamic nation [sentence as heard].

Palestinian Affairs

Executive Committee Issues Statement on Meeting

LD0512214593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met on 3 and 4 December under the chairmanship of Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and held a series of meetings.

The committee examined a number of major issues pertaining to the situation in the occupied homeland, the negotiations of the specialized committee, and measures regarding the setting up of the Palestinian National Authority. The meeting heard two reports from brothers Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Abu 'Ala [Ahmad Quray, Fatah Central Committee member] on the negotiations in both Cairo and Paris.

The Executive Committee has decided to intensify the measures which would guarantee the safety of our people and protect its security in the face of the escalation being carried out by gangs of settlers, and violations carried out by the army of occupation against our people's strugglers and our defenseless citizens.

The Executive Committee furthermore reaffirms its rejection of any postponement or backing down on the timetable to fulfill the commitments specified in the first stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement, particularly the total Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, and the transfer of authority in all Palestinian territories to the Palestinian National Authority.

The Executive Committee urges all the negotiating committees to abide by the basis of the agreement, which ensures the start of our people's total control over their land and resources.

The Executive Committee reaffirms the need to give priority to the situation in holy Jerusalem with regard to discussions and efforts on every level to safeguard its land against continuous settlement building and Judaization, as well as to protect its religious, cultural, and health institutions.

The Executive Committee stresses the need to pursue the release of all prisoners and detainees, considering their release is not subject to argument or negotiation.

The Executive Committee has decided to take a number of organizational measures in order to develop and oversee the work of the negotiating committees.

The Executive Committee has also studied a draft constitution for the Palestinian National Authority submitted by Dr. Anis al-Qasim, chairman of the National Council's Legal Committee, and has commissioned him to complete his research as a preliminary step toward publishing it and submitting for extensive discussion by our people and their experts, on the basis of the principles determined by the declaration of independence, in order to guarantee democracy, pluralism, our people's national heritage and sanctities, human rights, equality between men and women, and respect for the role of the institutions.

The Executive Committee has studied a number of plans on strengthening links and relations with the brothers in Jordan and Egypt, particularly at an economic level, and has decided to continue working in this direction at all other levels.

The Executive Committee has also studied the future shape of the Palestinian National Authority and completion of its formation in accordance with the Palestinian Central Council's decision on this matter. It has decided to continue the consultations on this issue until its next meeting.

'Power Struggle' To Continue Despite Reforms

JN0612125993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 93 p 10

["Analysis" by Lamis K. Andoni: "'Arafat Contains Internal Crisis, But Critics Doubt His Intentions"]

[Text] By conceding to some of the reformist demands of his colleagues, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has successfully contained a serious political crisis prior to his crucial meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Amman today.

But the power struggle, which has been intensified since the signing of the Oslo accord between Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13, is expected to continue as Mr. 'Arafat has practically retained his control over the decision-making process in the leadership.

Critics and supporters of Mr. 'Arafat's leadership style agree that although he has accepted four key demands, none of the decisions could practically end his monopoly over negotiations with Israel.

"He was composed and accepted the demands as if they were his own," commented one senior PLO official in Tunis. "We are not sure whether it is a tactic to contain the mounting criticism or a genuine shift."

The four key demands that Mr. 'Arafat accepted during a PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis were the following:

—Setting up a higher committee to supervise the negotiations with Israel.

—Discussing a legal draft as a basis for the structure of the Palestinian authority.

—Accepting the principle of selecting and appointing members of the negotiating teams and a suggested Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on the basis of political and professional expertise rather than personal loyalty.

—That any binding resolution should be approved by a majority of the PLO Executive Committee rather than informal decisions reached in the presence of Palestinian personalities and official present as members of "the Palestinian leadership."

The fourth demand was triggered by Mr. 'Arafat's repeated successful tactic of calling for broad meetings described as leadership meetings to avoid alliances against him in the PLO Executive Committee and sometimes to even bypass the need to secure a quorum especially when disgruntled members boycott the sessions.

Mr. 'Arafat was about to succeed in pulling the same trick last week when he tried to marginalize four PLO Executive Committee members who boycotted the sessions by inviting a "leadership" meetings that included nine representatives from the Israeli-occupied territories.

But the four, particularly Mahmud 'Abbas, who signed the Washington accord, were firm in their refusal to attend until the session as "a proper and official PLO Executive Committee meeting."

Insiders say Mr. 'Arafat, by inviting personalities from the territories and by initially ignoring his colleagues' demands, was sending a clear message to critics that the situation had changed and he could rely on support from his loyalists in the Israeli-occupied territories—who are bound to gain a bigger role once Palestinian self-rule takes effect.

But Mr. 'Arafat backed down, partly to contain a bigger crisis and partly because he was aware that he could still keep the upper hand inside the organization.

As a result of the bickering in Tunis last week, however, the PLO Executive Committee has not had time to discuss in detail its next immediate steps.

Therefore, when Mr. 'Arafat arrived in Amman on Sunday, many PLO Executive Committee members were not sure what he was exactly up to—whether regarding signing a draft economic agreement with Jordan, or the exact position that he will present to Mr. Christopher.

Mr. 'Abbas, according to PLO officials, was still not satisfied with the results of the Tunis meetings and he did not see any real change in the situation.

Mr. 'Abbas refused to join the new panel which will handle negotiations with Israel on details of self-rule.

The pressure on Mr. 'Arafat was stepped up in the last two weeks as his allies in the peace process grouped up in "a reformist movement" in a campaign to "democratise the decision-making process."

The movement, initiated by the Palestine's People Party (PPP) and later joined by the Palestinian Democratic Union (PDU), has demanded an end to Mr. 'Arafat's individual decisions and political appointments.

But some PLO officials counter that at least part of the supporters of the "reformist movement" are mainly trying to pressure Mr. 'Arafat to accept conditions set by the World Bank in financing Palestinian autonomy.

Concerns that the World Bank and other foreign donors would try to strip the process of building of a Palestinian autonomy from its national and political dimensions have prompted many of Mr. 'Arafat's critics, including those within his Fatah group, not to join the reformist campaign.

Officials, who have been outspoken in criticising Mr. 'Arafat counter that the demands for reforms should not unnecessarily be equated with playing into the hands of any foreign power.

"Mr. 'Arafat is replacing professionals and experts with ignorant people," charged Salah Ra'fat from the PDU, also known as Fida.

It is still unclear how the PLO Executive Committee, whose powers have been rapidly eroding, would be able to control the selection and appointment of the negotiating teams.

Five members of the committee have presented Mr. 'Arafat with a detailed memorandum demanding the restoration of the role of the Executive Committee as the top-level decision-making body in the PLO.

The demands include an effective role for the Executive Committee in allocation of funds and appointments and that only committee members should take part in its formal sessions or at least in decision-taking.

Six out of the 18-member body have already resigned or suspended their participation in meetings in protest against the peace accord with Israel.

The withdrawals have further undermined the already weak PLO leadership body, which has been loosing its role due to Mr. 'Arafat's individualistic style and partly due to the members' reluctance to impose a collective decision-making process.

Many in the PLO now blame Mr. 'Abbas and his associates for minimising the role of the committee by confining the decision-making process to a growingly shrinking inner circle at the expense of the committee itself.

"The circle was already becoming very small, but after the signing of the accord matters got worse as 'Arafat has decided to push aside Mr. 'Abbas himself," said one PLO official.

The debate over reforms in the PLO has succeeded in attracting the attention of many Palestinian intellectuals who basically oppose the peace accord with Israel, but are now considering "containing the damage" through the democratisation of the process.

But reformists and analysts concede that without serious progress that will bring about tangible results to the Palestinian people, support for the peace process and the implementation will be seriously undermined.

The opposition has dismissed the reformist movement as an "in-house struggle to split the pie" without addressing the essence of the accords with Israel.

Some PLO officials believe that Mr. 'Arafat moved fast to contain the crisis to preempt a potential coordination or convergence of interests between the reformists and the opposition, especially that many in the first category agree that the current performance of the PLO would only make good the predictions of the opposition—that the accord will lead to the consolidation of the Israeli occupation.

They expect Mr. 'Arafat's next move to be an effort to break up the reformist coalition by appeasing separate demands or at least the minimum of these demands and interests of the diverse parties and individuals who have so far endorsed the reformist demands.

" 'Arafat has bowed to the storm but has not retreated," said a senior PLO official in Tunis.

PLO, Fatah Leaders Boycott Meeting With 'Arafat

PM0312111693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Raghidah Dirgham, Rashid Khashanah, and Mazin al-Saghir report: "Leading Figures Boycotted Meeting With 'Arafat"]

[Excerpt] New York, Tunis, Paris—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced in an interview published in Paris yesterday that the agreement with the PLO will be considered null and void if Hamas wins the elections scheduled to be held next year. [passage omitted]

In Tunis a high-ranking Palestinian source has disclosed to AL-HAYAH that a considerable number of PLO Executive Committee members and Fatah leaders boycotted a meeting of the Palestinian leadership which was expected to be held on Monday evening or Tuesday morning under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to his residence in the Tunisian capital at dawn on Monday after a four-day tour of the Scandinavian

states. But the leadership held a meeting yesterday, which was attended by members from inside [the occupied territories].

The Palestinian source, who asked to remain anonymous, added that there was an "almost complete" boycott of the meeting in question, which was agreed upon at the Palestinian leadership's last meetings on 12 and 14 November and whose objective was to discuss the crisis in the Palestinian economic council for reconstruction and development, draft the fundamental law of the constitutional document of the national authority, and approve the version of a national document that specifies the authority's economic policy and the nature of the future economy. The meeting was also intended to discuss latest developments in the negotiation process currently taking place in Cairo and al-'Arish amid the serious escalation in the security situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the Israeli intransigence over the implementation of the provisions of the declaration of principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

The Palestinian source went on to say that 'Arafat "was surprised by the boycott. No one arrived in the meeting room except Fatah Central Committee members Sakhr Habash and Nasr Yusuf; PLO Executive Committee member 'Ali Ishaq, representative of the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhmad 'Abbas] faction; in addition to 'Arafat."

The source said that the meeting was also boycotted by [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), who is entrusted with running the peace process; Ahmad Quray', director of the PLO Economic Department; Yasir 'Amr, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front and the front's representative in the PLO Executive Committee. Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir) was also absent. As is known, Sulayman al-Najjab, representative of the Palestinian People (formerly Communist) Party, announced his boycott of the meeting in a strongly worded statement distributed in Amman, in which he attacked the Palestinian president and criticized the structures which have been set up, like the economic council and the delegation to the Taba negotiations, "which was formed on a factional basis and on the basis of personal loyalty to 'Arafat, which remains the only authority for this process," according to al-Najjab's statement.

The Palestinian source points out that this boycott is the first of its kind at that level and reflects the scale of the crisis facing the Palestinian leadership. The source adds that on Monday evening 'Arafat made more than one attempt with Palestinian leadership members to urge them to attend, but he encountered a unified position—a boycott. His visits to them in their homes failed to persuade them to abandon their decision to boycott the meeting.

It seems that the absence of Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political Department, who is on a working visit outside Tunisia, contributed to losing an interlocutor acceptable to oppositionists. The source goes on: On Tuesday morning the boycotters sent PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr to meet with the Palestinian president and inform him of the boycotters' view of the matters which sparked off the dispute in the Palestinian leadership. The source expects 'Arafat to respond to the most notable points raised by the oppositionists. However, the source declined to reveal these points. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Unable To Get Quorum

JN0412102893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Dec 93 pp 24, 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—As of early yesterday morning, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was still unable to secure the legal quorum for the PLO Executive Committee meetings, scheduled to be held last Thursday.

The Palestinian president is still relentlessly trying to convince Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab to attend the meetings. All three members have boycotted the Executive Committee meetings since sharp differences arose over 'Arafat's policy on security and economic appointments in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee held a protracted meeting that continued until dawn yesterday, and was attended by 14 out of 18 members. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department who is currently in New York to attend UN General Assembly meetings, and Hani al-Hasan who is in London, did not attend the meeting. Subhi Abu-Karsh and Khalid al-Hasan were absent for health reasons.

The Central Committee meetings, which are expected to continue for several days, last night discussed Fatah Movement's organizational issues in detail and adopted the following decisions:

1. Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir [Central Committee member], will be in charge of organizational decisions concerning the occupied Arab territories, including Gaza Strip.

2. Faysal al-Husayni is appointed the official in charge of Fatah Movement in the West Bank.

3. Zakariya al-Agha [member of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks] is appointed the official in charge of Fatah Movement in Gaza Strip.

Informed Palestinian sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Central Committee's first meeting discussed financial, political, and logistic issues, as well as securing necessary funds and allocations for the forces that will be transferred to gathering points in Egypt and Jordan in preparation for entering the self-rule areas.

These sources said the Central Committee meeting decided that the families of members of these forces should remain where they are until housing is secured for them in Gaza and Jericho.

The same sources said the Central Committee meeting, due to be held today, will discuss developments in the occupied territories, especially the latest Israeli escalation of repressive practices against the Palestinian people.

'Abbas Said To Turn Down Committee Appointment

NC0512193593 Bshamun Future Television Network in 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has turned down his appointment as chairman of the higher committee responsible for maintaining constant touch with the negotiators instead of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestine ambassador to Jordan revealed the formation of this committee under the chairmanship of Abu-Mazin. The committee is composed of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, all members of the Executive Committee, as well as Nabil Sha'th, who will also assume the work in the field. The committee will submit periodic reports to 'Arafat on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

In Tunis, 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, has announced that 'Arafat has formed a new Fatah Movement Command in the occupied territories headed by Faysal al-Husayni and Zakariya al-Agha. Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir, will assume the responsibility for coordination in the occupied territories. These changes have been made following the Fatah Movement's defeat in the Bi'r Zayt University elections against the Hamas Movement and because of the decline in the Fatah Movement's influence among Palestinian circles in the occupied areas less than three months after the signing of the Washington agreement as a result of the continuing confrontations in the occupied areas and Israeli intransigence.

'Ashrawi on Committee To Oversee Talks Decision

JN0512124093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, the PLO Executive Committee has decided to form a new steering committee. Has this decision been made as a result of the criticism of the PLO's decisionmaking process? Does this reduce the powers of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat?

['Ashrawi] As you know, since the beginning of the negotiations, there has been a follow-up committee and a higher committee to steer the negotiations. These committees continued to exist, but when the Taba, Gaza-Jericho, Cairo, and Paris negotiations began, the follow-up has not been carried out in the required manner because of the speedy developments and the fact that the organs were not prepared for this. Steps are now under way to organize matters in a better way within the framework of organs that will guarantee accurate follow-up. This has taken place at the Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee approved the setting up of these organs and the follow-up committees. At present, the higher committee continues to follow up the negotiations on all tracks.

[Mu'addi] How many members does this committee comprise, and does it include all PLO's trends?

['Ashrawi] As you know, the committee includes the trends that participate in the negotiating process. They are represented at the highest levels. The committee will coordinate with President 'Arafat and the Executive Committee, but it will be directly responsible for the negotiating process.

[Mu'addi] What is new about appointing Faysal al-Husayni as leader of Fatah Movement in the West Bank and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha as Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip?

['Ashrawi] These are internal issues. They are decisions adopted by the Executive Committee at its latest meetings as part of preparations for the next stage, and in an effort to organize things and streamline work in an efficient and successful way. These are internal Fatah affairs.

[Mu'addi] Reports say that the PLO and Jordan concluded an agreement on confederation. What is your comment on this?

['Ashrawi] As you know, there is an old political decision on confederation as a clear option, but this depends on the decisions of the two peoples, and will be implemented at the appropriate time. At present the PLO and the Jordanian Government are working for economic cooperation and economic agreements, which will stand as the core of their coordination and will effectively lead to confederation. As far as I know, the PLO and the Jordanian Government have not reached a final agreement on confederation, and this will be reached at the appropriate time.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, thank you very much.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies Agreement on Delaying Accord

JN0312194093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] The PLO today denied that it agreed to delay the implementation of the self-rule agreement the PLO and

Israel signed on 13 September. Amman radio cited brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, as saying today [words indistinct] what an Israeli paper reported in this regard is baseless.

It is noteworthy that YEDI'OT AHARONOT said that brother Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to delay the implementation of the agreement set for 13 December.

'Abd-al-Shafi: Better To Delay Withdrawal Than Fail

NC0312185693 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] In a meeting with MBC, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi believes that delaying the Israeli withdrawal is better than failing to implement the Palestinian autonomy agreement.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] First, a number of points in the agreement are not clear. This means that we undoubtedly need to reach agreement between the two sides, the Palestinian and the Israeli, to clarify the vague points so that it is possible to implement the agreement. This means that if full agreement is not reached regarding implementing the agreement on 13 December, either the date will have to be postponed or the agreement will fail.

[Unidentified correspondent] There are proposals for American mediation.

['Abd-al-Shafi] According to the text of the agreement, if some obstacles emerge in the negotiations, the issue may be referred to the joint committee, the Liaison Committee, to make a decision. If the latter fails, the matter is referred to a reconciliation committee that will be agreed upon. If reconciliation efforts fail, the matter will be referred to a judiciary. So, it is very early to talk about resorting to the Americans. [end recording]

Sha'th on 13 Dec Withdrawal, 'Arafat-Rabin Summit

TA0612103093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 7

[By Salih Abu-Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, yesterday accused Israel of exerting pressure on the Palestinian negotiators through its practices against the residents of the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement, Sha'th said: It is no secret that the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories against the actions of the Israeli Army and the settlers is tantamount to steadfastness and support for us at the negotiating table. Any gain we achieve here is a gain for the Palestinian people wherever they may be.

In a direct reference to postponement of Israeli withdrawal, Sha'th said: I would like to say that 13 December does not mean the end of the world despite the fact that we insist on implementing the withdrawal at its fixed date and reject foot-dragging and procrastination by the other party. Sha'th stressed that any delay in the withdrawal date will not exceed one or two weeks from the date determined in the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

On the issue of Palestinian detainees and prisoners, Sha'th said: Our persistence has succeeded in linking any agreement that will be reached with another one on the release of all the Palestinian detainees and prisoners regardless of their political affiliations. We have neutralized Israel's excuse to delay the release of the prisoners for some time in anticipation of confidence-building measures by both sides. The talks now are focused on drawing up a suitable timetable for the release of the prisoners, not the principle of release itself.

Sha'th refused to provide any number for the prisoners who will be freed in accordance with this timetable, saying: I do not wish to pre-empt events, but I can say that a large number of Palestinians, estimated in thousands, will be freed on the day a final agreement is signed.

On the possibility of a summit meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin, Sha'th said: Such a meeting is essential and has actually been decided on, but its date and venue has not been fixed yet.

With regard to the remarks attributed to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were to win the Palestinian elections scheduled to be held next year it would mean that the Palestinian-Israeli accord had been nullified, Sha'th said: All these remarks fall within the general framework of psychological warfare and mean absolutely nothing. Either there is democracy or there isn't. What do elections mean unless the ones who triumph in them have the right to form the national authority? What objection is there to Hamas forming this authority if it wins the elections? The issue is one of adherence to the accord and we shall adhere to it.

Sha'th on Progress in Talks

JN0612122793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations, just one week is left before the start of implementing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, has progress been made on the subjects discussed by the Security Committee?

[Sha'th] I can say that the committees formed by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations for the talks on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho are working very seriously to make success before the scheduled date. The committee assigned with handing over administrative powers in al-'Arish, and the committee on security and withdrawal in Cairo continued their work and will continue their meetings until the end of this week. We want to do all we can in order to conclude our efforts on the scheduled date so that the withdrawal will begin as scheduled.

[Mu'addi] What are the issues that still obstruct reaching an agreement by 13 December?

[Sha'th] There are three main issues. They are defining the Jericho area, controlling border crossings with Egypt and Jordan, and the size of the settlements in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. On each of these issues, the maps and studies are ready, and they just require a decision. This means, for example, that if Israel this evening accepts the real size of the Jericho area, or if it accepts our control of the borders, in cooperation with Israel, and if we reach an agreement on the size of the settlements, we can sign the agreement tomorrow. It is not a question of time to work out details. We work day and night to agree on these details, but what is needed is a decision.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, you said yesterday that slight progress was reached on control of crossings in Jericho and Gaza, has Israel accepted the Palestinian delegation's demand?

[Sha'th] Israel is offering some alternatives for administering the crossings so the Palestinians would not feel that the Israeli soldiers have full control, but in my opinion this is not enough. We want the Palestinian citizen to feel the great difference that has occurred as a result of this withdrawal. We do want the Palestinian citizen to see the Israeli soldier. We want him to see the Israeli citizen within the framework of real peace. We want to end this picture of the Israeli soldier who searches and insults the Palestinian citizen, and who prevents his entry or makes it difficult for him to enter. We want the Palestinian citizen who enters Gaza and Jericho to see a Palestinian soldier and employee. We want even a Palestinian rose to be presented to him on his return. This is something of political importance, in addition to its importance from the symbolic and psychological points of view. This has not been reached yet.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

'Ashrawi Views Christopher Visit, Withdrawal Date

NC0512081493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Ashrawi] Good morning to you.

[Abu-al-Majd] What have you prepared for the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday [7 December], knowing that the Israelis reject U.S. mediation?

['Ashrawi] First, we are reminding the world of its responsibility to render the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement a success. There is an international commitment—not only by the sponsors of the peace talks but also by the countries involved in the economic development program, as reflected in the meetings of the donor states in Washington and Paris. This means there is international responsibility and guarantees to render the agreement successful. Second, there are issues related to the course of the negotiations and Israel's position on withdrawal, the crossing points, the deployment of the army and the so-called settlers' security, freedom of movement, and the size of Jericho. The negotiators are addressing these issues now, and an effective political intervention is inevitable.

[Abu-al-Majd] The implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is scheduled for 13 December. All Israeli statements suggest that the date is not sacred and that the implementation may be postponed for a week or more. What do the Palestinians think about this date? Will you ask Christopher for an Israeli commitment?

['Ashrawi] Yes, of course. We believe that this is a real test of Israel's commitment and intentions concerning the timetable and the Declaration of Principles. This is the first date, and all later dates in the timetable are based on it. But Israel is escalating its practices in the occupied territories—there is violence and terrorism by settlers, and even by the army—and it is showing a retreat from its commitment. We believe both developments are very serious and do not give positive indications about the future of the peace process and Israel's respect for its obligations. Therefore, we insist on deterring the settlers and the army, on curbing these practices, and on the Israeli Government enforcing the rule of law. Second, we insist on the implementation of the agreement on the set date, as this is a test of credibility.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Ashrawi, if Israel insists on not implementing the agreement on 13 December, what will your position be—especially since you are now preparing the Palestinian police force and planning to launch economic projects?

['Ashrawi] It is up to the PLO, President 'Arafat, and the Palestinian leadership to decide. We say that we are

committed to the set dates, and Israel must be committed. If Israel fails to meet its obligations, then we will see what we can do. The dates and commitments must be respected, otherwise, there will be a reaction by the Palestinian public, which expects Israel to show commitment and pass the test. However, Israeli practices so far and the reality seen by the Palestinian people do not indicate any radical change in Israel's conduct or even in its way of thinking.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Israeli chief of staff has said that he expects the PLO to give Israel information about the Israeli prisoners and missing persons. Can we understand from this that Israel is linking this information to progress in the peace talks with you?

['Ashrawi] Israel links everything to the payoff it is seeking. It has in fact linked this information to the issue of the release of the [Palestinian] detainees. As you know, this issue has been pending since the eighth round and even since the start of the negotiating process. We have insisted that the release of the detainees is an indisputable political right, especially since the Declaration of Principles was signed. This means that it is a real demand for implementing this agreement and not an issue for bartering. The Israeli side has indeed prevaricated and delayed the release of the detainees, and this has caused a negative reaction among the Palestinian people.

[Abu-al-Majd] But are you ready to hand over this information?

['Ashrawi] When Rabin's envoys arrived to see 'Arafat, the latter gave them the number of missing Israelis. [sentence as heard] The other issues are being worked out between the military wing and the PLO leadership, on one side, and the Israeli Government, on the other.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Ashrawi, are you expecting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour to achieve some progress in your track with Israel, in light of his statements before his arrival in the region and during his current visit to Israel?

['Ashrawi] We have learned not to expect much from these shuttle trips and visits. These trips might be politically oriented, but they have not reached any practical results. We believe that the general conditions or climate and the work to speed up or achieve progress on the Syrian track will help the Palestinian track, especially with regard to the Israeli practices. But, realistically speaking, we are not expecting any radical change or any practical breakthrough in the negotiations as a result of Christopher's visit.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, Dr. 'Ashrawi, what are the latest Palestinian preparations for the immediate implementation of the agreement on Palestinian self-government?

['Ashrawi] There has been hard and intensive work to develop the structure, methods, bases, and criteria for the tasks; to stipulate the qualifications required of the individuals who will have to carry out these tasks; to formulate the bases for the structures of the state's establishments; politically, to decide the bases for the national authority; and to formulate the bases for the economic structure and for taking over authority in accordance with the agreement.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you Dr. 'Ashrawi.

'Urayqat Comments on Talks, Christopher Tour

NC0612081593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us begin this telephone conversation between Cairo and Jerusalem with your analysis of the acts of violence in the occupied territories and their link with the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

['Urayqat] The intention was to expedite efforts to create new realities on the ground. But regrettably, as the world observed, the Israeli settlers launched well-planned attacks, under the protection of and with the knowledge and participation of the Israeli army, against the Palestinian people in a campaign of terror, destruction of property, killing, and arson. The Israeli army did not prevent these attacks, as stipulated in the agreement, but participated in them instead. To say the least, this created an atmosphere that caused the peace process lose its credibility.

Leaders may sign peace accords, but what makes peace are the changes that take place on the ground and the citizens' protection of these changes. Regrettably, Israel has not made such changes on the ground. At the negotiating table, they present obstructionist proposals that aim to maintain their control and reorganize their occupation of the territories rather than their withdrawal. This is in addition to the worsening economic conditions.

These three factors prompted the average citizen to say there has been no change.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian side has repeatedly announced that 13 December, the date set for the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, is sacred according to the agreement's provisions. The Israeli side, particularly Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, declares that reaching a clear agreement is more important than the date. Is this Israeli view one of the tactical maneuvers to appease some of the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories?

['Urayqat] First, when Rabin says 13 December is not a sacred date, he is trying to absolve himself of his government's obligations to the accord. True, 13 December, like any other day, is not sacred. But, fundamentally, there is a clear-cut commitment to start implementing the accord on the ground on 13 December. When Rabin tries to evade this obligation, he is seeking to evade the implementation of the accord.

True, there is an Israeli opposition, but this does not mean that the Israeli Government should shirk its responsibilities, which are stipulated in the accord. If 13 December passes like any ordinary day. I fear that the credibility of the peace process will be undermined.

[Al-Jundi] Do you mean that acts of violence in the occupied territories will escalate if the accord is not implemented on time?

['Urayqat] We noticed that the signing of the accord coincided with supportive demonstrations, because the Palestinian nation really needs peace more than the other nations of the region. The land under occupation is ours, and it is our people who suffer. In the nearly two months that have passed since the accord was signed, the Palestinian people have witnessed the Israeli settlers' provocations and attacks and the army's protection of them, as well as the lack of changes on the ground. In view of this, the Palestinian citizens have begun to lose their hope and have begun to cast doubt on the credibility of the entire peace process. Because the situation is very serious, we are saying that 13 December is a very important day and that the implementation of the agreement must begin if we want the peace process to succeed.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of the usefulness of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Rabin welcomed a U.S. role to narrow the differences, but did not mention U.S. mediation. The current tour of the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher aims, among other things, to spur the Gaza-Jericho agreement. How crucial do you see a U.S. role now, considering the circumstances involving the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

['Urayqat] As you know, the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the fruit of a peace process that began in Madrid under U.S. and Soviet—and then Russian—sponsorship. We noticed that the negotiations that are taking place in Egypt have not enjoyed direct U.S. or Russian sponsorship, and this is one of the reasons that their progress has been slowed.

From the very start, we made it clear that the Declaration of Principles is not a peace agreement, nor is it a bilateral nor an isolated agreement. It is simply a declaration of the principles on which the negotiations should be based. Christopher's task, in this tour, is extremely important. All the Arab sides are seeking comprehensive peace. The Washington negotiations have been suspended for some time. What is blocking the Washington talks is the Israeli Government, because it is telling the whole world that it is not ready to withdraw from the occupied Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian territories.

Therefore, Christopher's tour is very important. The United States should spell out its role in a clear and unambiguous way. Either it is ready to bear its responsibility as a sponsor of the peace process, or the door should be opened for others to sponsor this process. Specifically, Europe can play a role, and many other countries have expressed interest in this regard.

[Al-Jundi] But observers see the European role as being an economic one.

['Urayqat] We cannot separate the economic and political roles. We cannot speak about economics in the region or in the occupied territories without laying down the political foundation. As you know, the basis on which the peace process is built is that of exchanging occupied Arab and Palestinian territories for peace.

[Al-Jundi] Will a delegation of the leaders of the occupied territories hold an official meeting with Secretary Christopher? Will such a meeting be dedicated to familiarizing Christopher with the Palestinian assessment of the situation in the occupied territories?

['Urayqat] There are three Palestinian-U.S. meetings scheduled. President Yasir 'Arafat will hold the first meeting [with Christopher]. A second meeting will take place on Tuesday afternoon in Jerusalem. An official Palestinian delegation will take part in that meeting. The leadership has given us very clear instructions in this regard. The official talks will be based on four principal matters: first, the U.S. role; second, the deteriorating situation on the ground, involving the settlements and other issues; third, the suspended Washington negotiations; and finally, the Israeli procrastination or attitude with regard to the negotiations and the land.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Talk Warns Against Failure of Christopher Mission

JN0512121893 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: It is not strange that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher should visit the Middle East at a time when the peace process has been stalemated by Israel's intransigence on all the Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks in general, and in the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in particular, as a result of Israel's continued procrastination over implementing the Declaration of Principles on establishing the Palestinian national authority and the Israeli withdrawal as scheduled by that agreement.

When the agreement was signed, the United States said it would not allow anyone to abort it. The situation created by Israel's intransigence and continued repressive measures in the occupied Palestinian territories has once again put the U.S. credibility on the line. Furthermore, the entire peace process may be destroyed if Israel continues its procrastination, terrorist repressive measures against the Palestinian people, denial of their legitimate rights, and daily violation of international laws and human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Ignoring Israel's practices certainly greatly jeopardizes U.S. credibility as a sponsor of peace. By disregarding and failing to put an end to Israel's procrastinations, the United States will be destroying the achievements already realized in the peace process. This will help fuel violence anew, and the repercussions will be bad for all.

It is logical to say that the United States did not embark on the peace process in order to destroy it now. Therefore, the U.S. secretary of state should prove his country's credibility by pressuring Israel and forcing it to implement its commitments in accordance with the Declaration of Principles. In other words, Christopher will have to choose between the spoiled child [Israel] and its practices, and the credibility of the United States in its capacity as sponsor of peace and its requisites.

We sincerely hope Warren Christopher succeeds in choosing one of these two options. But, should he fail, we will not shed tears. The option of Palestinian independence is clear, and its requisites are available. The wise man is aware that the Palestinian blood will not be cheap.

Officials' Families Arrive in Gaza From Tunis

TA0312180993 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The PLO has begun relocating the families of its employees in Tunis to the Gaza Strip, preparing for the actual arrival of the employees who will take over power from Israel. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 10 Palestinian families arrived today in the Gaza Strip from Tunis via Egypt. Among those were the families of the PLO Gaza Committee employees—Salim al-Shurafah, Muhammad Madduh, Ahmad Abu-Khadrah, and Nabil Tammus. In the next few days other families will be transferred to the Strip.

New Palestinian Opposition Radio Said Launched

JN0512111493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Sa'id Mustafa]

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian radio station has started nightly experimental transmission in what appears to be an attempt to systematically jam the Arabic service of the Israeli radio, which is beamed mainly to the Arab states neighboring Israel.

A report by the QUDS PRESS monitoring unit indicates that the radio station, whose transmission was first heard at the end of September this year, continued to broadcast patriotic Palestinian songs and instigative statements to the population of the occupied territory. It was also noticeably concerned with the affairs of the Arab citizens in the territories occupied in 1948 and, in tone, was opposed to the current Middle East peace process.

The radio first identified itself two nights ago as al-Quds Radio [idha'at al-quds]. This radio is similar to another station run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril. Jibril's radio, which transmits for approximately nine hours daily, adopts a hardline stand toward the recent PLO-Israeli accord on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The new station is heard for approximately five hours daily from 2000 to 0100 local Mediterranean time [1800-2300 GMT]. It uses the mediumwave 732 kHz, the same frequency used by the Voice of Israel to broadcast its main Arabic programs. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic transmits on 738 kHz] Hearing the Israeli radio at night has become somewhat impossible as its main frequency is continuously jammed.

At present, several Palestinian radio stations are operational. These include a pro-PLO radio and a pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front radio, both of which broadcast from Baghdad. Another station transmits from Damascus and is run by the pro-Syria al-Sa'iqah Organization, in addition to the PFLP-GC al-Quds radio, which is severely jammed by Israel. Palestinian sources say that the Hamas Movement, the largest opposition faction, intends to operate a new radio station beamed to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to convey the movement's views to Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Further on New Radio Transmission

JN0612104293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 93 p 2

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Opponents of the Middle East peace process have intensified their media campaign by introducing a new Palestinian radio station to the airwaves of the region or by increasing the period of transmission of an exisiting radio station.

A radio station identifying itself as "Jerusalem Broadcast" has been heard in the air for one hour on most evenings since September, shortly after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed their landmark autonomy agreement.

According to listeners, the radio, which claims to be based in Jerusalem, broadcast on the same wavelength as Radio Israel's Arabic Service, which reduced its "political propaganda" citing the progress towards press [as published] after the signing of the Israel-PLO accord.

Most of the programmes that the "Jerusalem Broadcast" aired were Palestinian national songs in what the Al-Quds Press Service described in a report this week as trials.

Al-Quds said Saturday [4 December] the radio station was new and planned to broadcast for five hours daily between 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

The programmes will be mostly aimed at the countries neighbouring Israel, particularly targetting Palestinians who lost their homes with the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, according to al-Quds.

PLO officials asserted the radio was not new and was an extension of the "Voice of Jerusalem" operated by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"Voice of Jerusalem" has been in the air for the past four years and is believed to be based somewhere in Damascus.

"Jerusalem Broadcast is no different from Voice of Jerusalem and it is transmitted from Damascus," said a PLO official in Amman. "All that the radio did was to extend the transmission hours and mislead listeners by claiming that it is broadcasting out of Jerusalem."

"Obviously Jibril would like to have everyone believe that opponents of the peace process are so strong that they could operate a clandestine radio station from the heart of Jerusalem," added the official.

But several listeners disagreed. They said the new broadcast was distinctly different from the familiar style of "Voice of Palestine"—a source for many who like to listen the rhetorics and tall claims of "military operations against the enemy" that most of the time go unconfirmed.

"The style is different, the presentation is sharper and the contents are more to the point," according to a book shop owner who said he was frequent listener of "Voice of Jerusalem."

Observers said its was unlikely that the new radio, if indeed it is new, was based in Jerusalem since the Israelis, armed with sophisticated communication interception and detection equipment, would have bust it less than 24 hours after it went on the air for the first time vowing opposition to the autonomy accord.

In the meantime, pro-autonomy accord Palestinians are setting up their own radio and television station. The PLO has signed an agreement with a French television company to set up a Palestinian TV station in Jericho.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Journalists Association, is leading the radio and television project, reports said. Mr Abu-'Ayyash has assigned future staff of the station for training in Europe as well as Jordan, according to the reports.

Hamas Wins in Gaza Islamic College Elections

TA0412171893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has won in the student elections at the Gaza Islamic College. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Hamas list, dubbed as the list in memory of 'Imad 'Aqil, won 81 percent of the votes and all nine student union seats. The Fatah list won 11 percent, the Islamic Jihad list got six percent, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine got two percent of the vote.

Israeli Pursuit of Fatah Hawks Angers Residents

PM0312163493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Anger at Continuing Israeli Pursuit and Calls for a Return to Armed Struggle"]

[Excerpts] Gaza, from the Information Services Center—Thousands of Rafah residents in the south of the Gaza Strip have marched to the camp where the home of Fatah Hawk leader Taysir al-Burdayni is situated, in solidarity with his family against his arrest by the Israeli Army Monday evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Burdayni had assumed leadership of the Fatah Hawks only a few weeks ago when former Hawks leader Hisham Jawdah surrendered to the Israeli authorities, who then released him on the same day.

The Fatah Hawks' third in line who has now assumed the [leadership] responsibility is Salim Muwafi, who told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that he would pursue "armed struggle as the only way of defeating the occupation." He confirmed that by firing some shots in the air in anger at the arrest of Taysir al-Burdayni. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Hisham Jawdah, former Fatah Hawks leader who was the first to give himself up and was then pardoned, said: "When the PLO asked me to give myself up to the civilian administration, I did not hesitate for one moment and I actually did that and then the brother fugitives followed suit as a goodwill gesture by the Palestinian side."

In his statement yesterday, Jawdah added: "But Israel did not honor its pledges, turned its back on the Washington agreement, and hunted the fugitives who had been pardoned and those who had not. I now say that the (Palestinian) military organ should resume its military operations so long as Israel refuses to treat us like human beings."

It should be noted that Hisham Jawdah and all those who had given themselves up have to go every day to the Israeli intelligence headquarters for interrogation.

'Ala' Tafish, a Fatah official in al-Shati' camp in Gaza, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the fugitives who have been pardoned feel extremely insulted, and that is why most of them have returned to military and organizational activity as an expression of regret. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Prospect for Resumed Armed Struggle

JN0412201293 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Unfolding daily events show us that the Palestinians are not interested in obtaining peace at any price. We are not the kind of people who will swallow just anything. The daily struggle Palestinians are waging at the negotiating table and on the ground against occupation troops lends credence to the Palestinian reading of the Declaration of Principles. In other words, we want that agreement to launch us on the road to an independent Palestinian state and a just peace.

To quote brother Faysal al-Husayni, we did not go for peace on impulse. Our peace option was decided upon by the Palestinian people exercising their free will with an eye to advancing their national interests. We will do whatever it takes to further Palestinian interests and rights. We took the road of armed struggle, al-Husayni goes on, while others were afraid. We are now pursuing the peace option while others are holding back.

The Palestinian people are capable of reverting to the first option if that should meet our people's interests. All concerned—above all the Israeli enemy—should take note. The Israeli enemy must not for a minute entertain the illusion that we said goodbye to arms or that we are in no position to readopt the option of armed struggle if this should prove necessary. Fatah has typically made the right decisions. This still holds true. The Palestinian people have it in them to make the peace of the brave—one under which the flags of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will flutter. We will accept either of two choices—an independent, free Palestine or the flame of the revolution handed down from generation to generation.

Algeria

Party Dialogue To Continue Despite Boycott

LD0312145793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Following the withdrawal of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] from the dialogue, the National Dialogue Commission announced that multilateral meetings will continue with political parties. The rapporteur of the National Dialogue Commission told a news conference that the withdrawal of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] and the MDA will not affect the course of the national dialogue.

Abdelkader Bensalah pointed out that the Commission has recorded positive responses to the latest statement by the Higher State Council [HCE], and he stressed that the Commission is convinced that a national consensus can only be reached by the participation of all tendencies that represent Algerian society. Bensalah made clear that the HCE's procedures are open to modification, but this is also linked to the extent that there is a return to civil peace.

Attacks on Foreigners Continue After Deadline

Italian Businessman Injured in Attack

LD0512202693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An Italian coral trader, Agnello Kaftaldo, yesterday [4 December] escaped an assassination attempt near his residence at Bir Khadem, when he was attacked by an unidentified person who fired three shots at him. After being taken to the hospital, it seemed that the Italian national's condition was not serious. [passage omitted]

Russian Man Injured in Gun Attack

NC0512122693 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Algiers, Dec 5 (AFP)—A Russian was injured Sunday [5 December] in a gun attack in Diar El Afia, near the Algerian capital, reliable sources said, in the third incident involving foreigners in four days.

The man, who was not identified, was hit in the head while shopping at his local market, the sources said. He was taken to the Ain Naadja military hospital. His condition was not immediately known.

The attack could not be officially confirmed.

The incident was the third attack on a foreigner since the expiry of a deadline Tuesday by Moslem fundamentalists for foreigners to leave the country or face attack.

Italian diplomatic sources said Aniello Castaldo was taken to the Ain Naadja hospital after being hit by three bullets as he left his home in the Birkhadem district.

Last Thursday, a Spaniard was killed south of Algiers in an attack blamed by Algerian authorities on terrorists, a term officially used to designate anti-government Islamic fundamentalists.

Russian Woman Killed 5 Dec

LD0512152293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Mrs. Ayadi Brahim, a Russian woman married to an Algerian, was killed today at Diar El-Afia quarter in Algiers. The victim died while being transferred to the hospital, according to the security services, which indicated that Mrs. Ayadi was attacked while she was doing her shopping in the market.

Mrs. Ayadi, whose maiden name is Polnya Larissa, is thus the third foreign victim in the past 72 hours. [passage omitted]

Extremists Murder Tribunal Judge in Oran

NC0612120793 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Algiers, Dec 6 (AFP)—Suspected Moslem fundamentalists on Monday [6 December] shot dead the presiding judge of the tribunal in the west Algerian city of Oran, local legal officials said.

Lakhdar Rouaz, hit by several bullets in the market district near his home before the three unidentified attackers fled, was the sixth magistrate to be killed since May. Three others have been injured.

Moslem extremists plunged Algeria into guerrilla war after the army intervened in January 1992 to bring about the cancellation of the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Hundreds of people have been killed in assassinations and clashes between security forces and fundamentalist guerrillas. The FIS was banned after the cancelled poll and most of its leaders are in jail.

Moslem extremists have this year begun attacking foreign nationals they accuse of collaborating with the regime, in a bid to cripple the already battered economy.

A Russian woman was murdered in Algiers on Sunday and a Spanish man was killed on Thursday in a mountain region, two days after an ultimatum for foreigners to leave the country expired.

An Italian businessman, Aniello Castaldo, was shot and wounded in the capital on Saturday.

Nine foreign nationals have been killed since September.

Egypt

Interior Minister Announces Arrests in Sidqi Investigation

NC0412133993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi announced today that security men Sunday arrested the owner of the car used in the abortive attack on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on 25 November.

Speaking during a news conference here today, al-Alfi said that the car owner is a member of the Vanguards of Conquest, the military wing of the al-Jihad organization. He is a fugitive that has been sentenced to three years in prison in connection with case number 21/1993-military felony, he added.

The interior minister emphasized that all perpetrators of the attack on Prime Minister Dr. Sidqi have been caught. Conclusive incriminating evidence and detailed confessions about the plans and method of implementing the crimes are available, he added.

The interior minister pointed out that the mystery of the crime had been unraveled only 72 hours after it took place. He noted that based on the plan laid down by the ministry, an extensive search was conducted to identify the owner of the car used in the explosion. The testimony of the eyewitnesses who happened to be in the area at the time, such as traffic policemen, street peddlers, car drivers, the people working in the al-Maqrizi School, and the guards in the neighboring buildings had been taken into account. All this information, along with the information available on the terrorist members of the al-Jihad organization, were pieced together, he added. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said that all nine terrorists who planned and carried out the abortive terrorist operation have been arrested. They were in possession of 20 kg of an explosive material like TNT, five locally made bombs, three automatic weapons, 11 pistols, 58 detonators, 1,897 rounds of ammunition, a black radio cassette set containing nine receivers for remote control detonation, and a remote control set used in the incident.

Al-Alfi added that the security services searched the terrorist dens in the Cairo, al-Jizah, and al-Qalyubiyah Governorates and found coded papers written in invisible ink, which members of the terrorist organization in and outside the country use for communicating. The pen used with the invisible ink was also seized.

The interior minister affirmed that the security services have identified all the leaders of the terrorist movement abroad, their places of residence, their means of communication with the members of the group carrying out the operations at home, and the funds sent from abroad, which are estimated at $40,000 and 30,000 Egyptian pounds.

The interior minister refused to reveal the names of the states in which these terrorist elements live, saying it is not in the interest of the investigation to reveal all this information right now. He indicated that he will hold a news conference next week, when he will reveal all the details relating to this terrorist organization.

Al-Alfi pointed out that the investigation involving the terrorist elements who participated in the abortive attack against the prime minister revealed that the terrorists traveled to Afghanistan and received extensive training in the art of combat and the manufacture and use of explosive material. It also revealed that they were instructed by the organization's leaders abroad to return to Egypt to carry out their terrorist plans, using documents and passports that were forged abroad. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said that the leaders of the terrorist organization abroad instructed the captured terrorist group to prepare to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The car used in the incident was loaded with explosive material connected to an electric receiver and a six-volt battery operated by remote control. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi said the terrorists made detailed confessions on how they planned and carried out the incident and agreed with their leaders abroad to phone them after the operation to issue a statement declaring the al-Jihad Organization's responsibility for the crime.

He said the group members planned and made preparations to carry out a series of operations to assassinate public figures and security officials and blow up some vital installations. But their plans were foiled because of the heavy security presence and the alertness of security men guarding the targeted figures, areas, and installations.

The interior minister said the nine captured terrorists are Sayyid Salah al-Sayyid Sulayman, a fugitive convict in Case Number 21, 1993, military crimes; fugitive convicts in military cases Tariq 'Abd-al-Nabi Hasan al-Fahl and Muhammad 'Ali 'Ali Khalil; Tuhami Ahmad 'Abdallah Shalabi, a fugitive convict sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor and involved in several cases; and al- Jihad Organization members Nur-al-Din Sulayman Muhammad 'Ali Karim, Amin Isma'il Musaylihi, 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Abu-Talhah, Hani 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, and 'Isam Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Tuni.

Al-Alfi said the nine terrorists have made detailed confessions about all their hostile plans and each one's role in the incident. They were referred to the supreme state security prosecution, which started the investigation with them.

Al-Jihad Claims Attack in Statement to Paper

NC0312155193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Al-Mu'tazz Billah and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Excerpts] The cycle of violence took a dangerous turn in downtown Cairo when Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi was subjected to an assassination attempt at 1235 yesterday. A booby-trapped red Peugeot with Cairo registration 271361 exploded as the prime minister's motorcade passed, slightly damaging his car, smashing windows and causing greater damage to guards' cars, and setting fire to nine cars at the scene. [passage omitted]

The al-Jihad Group has issued a statement claiming responsibility for the explosion. The statement, which we received by fax yesterday, said the operation was in response to the death sentences passed by military tribunals. The statement called on citizens to avoid the areas of what it called "the jihad action against the regime and the headquarters of and motorcades of its key figures." [passage omitted]

Mubarak Stresses Need To Confront Terrorism

NC0512121993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—After a two-hour meeting between President Husni Mubarak and the governors today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the president addressed several important national issues within the state's general policy.

He said President Mubarak discussed the governors' role in achieving development in the governorates, which will lead to comprehensive national development in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects. He noted the need for the governorates to pursue the state's policies of encouraging investment, giving priority to development and investment projects, encouraging small ventures, and using the energies of youth and creating job opportunities for them.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak also discussed ways to confront and rectify extremist thought through the integrated efforts of the political, social, educational, and media institutions at the governorate level.

The president stressed the governorates' role in confronting and correcting extremist thought. He also called on the governors to care about youth and utilize their capabilities, to turn their attention to education and learning, and to coordinate with scientific institutions and universities to confront and correct extremist thought.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak stressed the need to confront terrorism, which is trying to harm Egypt's stability. He also stressed the governors' role, in coordination with all agencies in the governorates, in confronting terrorism without hesitation or lenience. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Highlights Determination To End Terrorism

NC0412160693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has said the government is vigilant about the evil of terrorism and will deal with it using every available means, because it is an obstacle to development and progress.

In a message he addressed today to the Arab Cities Organization conference in Alexandria, which was delivered on his behalf by Local Administration Minister Dr. Mahmud Sharif, Dr. Sidqi said the government would not relent or stop combating this terrorism and is determined to end it. It can defeat it in cooperation with the Egyptian people. Dr. Sidqi said we must cooperate to confront terrorism.

He said the Arabs and the Arab Cities Organization are called upon to study old ideas to arrive at new world ideas containing three elements: The right of the individual to efficient services, the participation of the individual in development through work, and the right of the individual to the proceeds of his work.

He said Arab cities are called upon to ensure a person's right to development and services as long as development is not at the expense of the environment.

Intelligence Officer Stabbed in al-Minya

NC0612072893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Captain Muhammad Zakariya from the State Security Intelligence Department was stabbed while he was walking in Kafr al-Mansurah District, in al-Minya, at 2115 yesterday. A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry said that as the officer was walking, he became suspicious of two terrorists and tried to seize them. One of them stabbed the officer and tried to escape with his accomplice, but plainclothes Detective 'Umar Riyad 'Abdallah fired at them. He injured one of the suspects and arrested the other.

The source said that the suspects are terrorist Muhammad Jum'ah Hasan, who was previously accused in Case 4515/1993 and who attacked the officer and was injured, and terrorist 'Ala' Fathi 'Abd-al-Hamid. The injured officer was taken to al-Mibarrah Hospital, and the injured terrorist was taken to al-Minya General Hospital. The prosecution office has been notified to begin interrogating the suspects. The State Security Intelligence Department is looking into the activities of the two detained terrorists.

Policeman Killed in Asyut

NC0612110493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Asyut, 6 Dec (MENA)—Noncommissioned police officer Hamid Muhammad Jabrah al-'Umdah of the railway police force in al-Qusiyah City, Asyut, was killed this morning when unidentified men fired at him and escaped.

Security forces surrounded the area and began a search for the culprits. The al-Qusiyah prosecution office has opened an investigation.

Islamic Preacher Prevented From Leaving for U.S.

NC0312155493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The State Security Intelligence Department prevented Islamic preacher Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi from traveling to the United States on 23 November. Shaykh al-Mahallawi was invited by an Islamic center in New Jersey to attend an Islamic conference.

When he asked why he was not being allowed to visit, a State Security Intelligence officer told him he was banned from traveling and advised him to check it out with the State Security Intelligence officer in Alexandria, who knew in advance of his travel plans. Shaykh al-Mahallawi spent a hard night at Cairo airport before returning to Alexandria the next day.

In remarks to AL-SHA'B, the honorable shaykh deplored the humiliating incident and asked: Has the government finished its war against the Islamic call and started a war against preachers? Is Shaykh al-Mahallawi categorized as an advocate of terrorism and is it feared that he may start a coup d'etat in the United States?!

U.S. Defense Official Meets With Musa

NC0312214593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, who is currently visiting Cairo. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau was present.

Wisner said afterward that the meeting was useful and that they discussed ways to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and issues concerning the peace process. He added that his country is interested in achieving progress in the peace process, noting that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, especially his visit to Cairo on Wednesday, comes in the context of this interest. He said all parties hope that peace will be achieved and that agreement will be reached on all important issues contained in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration.

On a possible postponement of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho contrary to the Declaration provisions, Wisner said progress must be made in the peace talks because the parties concerned are in agreement that the Declaration should be implemented and that its postponement does not serve the parties concerned. These parties should engage in serious negotiations to reach agreement to avoid acts of violence. He remarked that this is what Egypt and the United States are seeking and that the entire world wants an agreement to be reached.

On Israel's stand on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, Wisner said the United States believes that if Israel wishes to be a party to this treaty, it should not be a nuclear state. He added that his country hopes that the nuclear nonproliferation treaty will be universal.

Received by Mubarak

NC0412102993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, and a number of his aides today. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau attended.

In a statement after the meeting, Wisner expressed great pleasure in returning to Cairo and paying his respects to President Mubarak.

He said: I conveyed to the president a message from Washington on the strength and firmness of our cooperation to ensure the security and safety of all American and Egyptian citizens and to work for a strong and secure Middle East.

Wisner said President Mubarak is building peace through his pioneering achievements in the Middle East peace process. He added: We will continue full cooperation and we are willing to maintain our strong ties with Egypt in all fields. [passage omitted]

Musa Meets With State Department Human Rights Official

NC0412131293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1151 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo. U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Robert Pelletreau attended the session.

Assistant Secretary Shattuck described the meeting as "useful," pointing out that he and Musa discussed a number of international issues, focusing particularly on those concerning human rights.

Meanwhile, Dr. Na'ilah Jabr, director of the Human Rights Department at the Foreign Ministry, said that Shattuck expressed his country's appreciation for Egypt's effective role in the peace process and for its

training of the Palestinian policemen who will take charge of law and order in the Palestinian territories.

Dr. Jabr said that the U.S. assistant secretary of state also praised the Egyptian democratic process, its commitment to the freedom of expression, and its impressive legal apparatus.

Dr. Jabr also pointed out the Foreign Ministry's decision to set up a special department for human rights. She added that Minister Musa assured the U.S. official of Egypt's respect for human rights and explained that Egypt's fight against terrorism is being conducted within the bounds of the law.

Musa Says Palestinians 'Right' About 13 Dec Deadline

NC0312200993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is prepared to make efforts and hold talks to bring closer the Palestinian-Israeli views on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He noted that Egypt's contacts with the Palestinian side continue.

In remarks to the Paris-based Arabic language ORIENT [AL-SHARQ] radio, Musa pointed out that problems exist between the Palestinians and Israelis, but he stressed the need to continue working to reach a solution or an agreement. He noted that Egypt believes that the Palestinians are right and that an agreement must be reached before 13 December for the actual implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Stresses Support for Palestinians

NC0612123193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt supports the Palestinian stance and said Egypt agrees on whatever the Palestinians and Israelis agree on.

Musa was commenting on Jordan's announcement that it agrees with the Palestinians taking responsibility for the West Bank and Gaza crossings.

Paper Denounces 'Extremists' Plan To Build New Settlements

NC0412083393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has denounced a secret plan by Israeli extremists to establish more than 100 new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. This hinders the Israeli withdrawal and places new obstacles before the Israeli-PLO negotiations, it says.

The paper notes renewed bloody clashes between the Israeli occupation forces and the Fatah Movement just nine days before Israel is to begin its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, as agreed.

AL-AHRAM hopes that the Israeli Government will control settlers and extremists as one of the confidence-building measures, which are essential for the completion of the peace process. It is no secret, the paper concludes, that procrastination and violence are the reasons for the current deadlock in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Government Eases Restrictions on Travel to Israel

NC0312154893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have decided to allow Egyptians to travel to Israel without obtaining the approval of the security authorities. The decision covers all citizens except students and craftsmen.

The Israeli Government has submitted several protests to the Egyptian Government for imposing complicated security measures to restrict travel to Israel.

Libya

Government Forces Besiege 'Rebels' Stronghold

NC0312192793 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 3 (AFP)—Troops loyal to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are still besieging the Bani Walid region southeast of Tripoli where rebels launched a revolt in October, a Libyan opposition leader said Friday 3 December].

The Cairo representative of the opposition Libyan National Salvation Front (LNSF), Muhammad Fayiz Jibril, told AFP the situation remained tense in Bani Walid, 120 kilometers (75 miles) southeast of the capital, where al-Qadhdhafi's forces had set up checkpoints in a bid to arrest the rebels.

He said leaders of the Warfela clan based in the region "recently rejected an offer by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi urging them to hand over the rebels still holed up in the region, in exchange for lifting the siege."

The Warfila also turned down a request by al-Qadhdhafi for them to organize a trial of the rebels in Bani Walid, Jibril added.

The LNSF official said several Libyan clans, including the al-Zintan, had supported the Warfila against al-Qadhdhafi. Before the revolt the Warfila were considered allies of the Libyan leader.

Jibril said the current international isolation of Libya had "a major impact on the ill-considered decisions taken by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi."

New United Nations sanctions against Libya, including a freeze on assets abroad and an embargo on oil-related equipment, took effect on Wednesday.

The U.N. Security Council on November 11 ordered the new sanctions because of Tripoli's continued refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

The stiffer sanctions came on top of an air and military embargo imposed on Libya on April 15, 1992.

Official Warns of Reactivating 'Revolutionary Traditions'

PM0312122693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Libya Responds to Sanctions With Mixture of Defiance and Concern"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Libya spent the first day after new sanctions were imposed on it reacting with a mixture of defiance and concern.

Its defiant conduct was expressed via the official media services, which urged the people to "resist the conspiracy heroically." [passage omitted]

In the context of the defiant tone a senior Libyan official has told AL-HAYAH that Tripoli may "reactivate its revolutionary traditions and cause numerous problems" to the West.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous and who is close to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, said that Libya closed all "revolutionary camps," expelled all "revolutionaries" from its territory, and suspended financial aid to more than 50 "terrorist" organizations, including the IRA, to prove its "good intentions toward the West."

He bitterly added: "Look how the West has responded to all this. So it is not strange if we return to our previous role in the forefront of the world revolutionary movement after the huge and harsh pressures to which we have been exposed. Look at the troubles and problems which even poor fundamentalists like [Hasan] al-Turabi in Sudan can cause. We can do a hundred times more than him."

A French oil expert said over the telephone that Libyan oil industry "has maybe shrunk a little bit, but it will not be affected a lot" by the recent sanctions. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Arab League Denounces Sanctions

PM0312175593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Bishari: Resolution on Toughening Sanctions Not Worth the Ink It Was Written With"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Paris yesterday reemphasized its intention of "compelling Libyan authorities to respond" to the demands made to it by the French judiciary over the blowing up of the "UTA" plane over the Niger desert in 1989. [passage omitted]

In Cairo, the headquarters of the Egyptian opposition National Progressive Unionist Grouping party witnessed a demonstration on Wednesday night/Thursday morning in which party leaders and representatives of Arab unions and associations took part. They emphasized their support for the Libyan people after the toughening of sanctions in accordance with Security Council Resolution 883.

Participants denounced the resolution and urged Arab workers to stop loading, unloading, and fueling U.S., French, and British ships and planes for at least 48 hours. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim al-Bishari [Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League] said that Security Council Resolution 883 on toughening the sanctions "is not worth the ink it was written with." He reemphasized that his country will not hand over the two men suspected of blowing up the Lockerbie plane five years ago. He warned Washington, Paris, and London that "any attempt" by them to launch a military operation "will cost them disastrous consequences which they will not be able to withstand."

He stressed that the threat to impose a blockade on Libyan oil "will not frighten or intimidate the Libyan people, who lived without oil until 1961 and can live without oil revenues for years."

Al-Bishari said that "the Lockerbie file was opened" because of Libya's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's [as published] invitation to participate in the Madrid conference in October 1991. He said that "some people told me after the Libyan decision to reject the invitation that the U.S. Administration would charge Libya for old bills." He said the proof is that the Lockerbie issue began a few days after the Madrid conference on 7 November 1991.

He linked the "victory" achieved by the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1956 "through his determination to fight and not to capitulate, with what Libya can achieve through its steadfastness against the Western campaign launched against it." [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Withdrawal from United Nations

LD0312180193 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanoun [December] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'AL ZAHAF AL AKHDAR newspaper wrote that the United Nations had become incapable of fulfilling its role and of fulfilling the duties it was formed to carry out after the Second World War and after it was used to serve the interests of the western countries.

'AL ZAHAF AL AKHDAR' published an article on the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations by the allies, after declaring the goals it was established

to pursue—namely to achieve justice, peace and security in the world and to bring about international cooperation, socially, politically and economically, it became clear that its real goals were those of the countries which had founded it.

The call to countries to join this organisation was made on the claim that it was an 'international' organisation, but, in fact, its power remained confined in the hand of the allies who won the war after World War II.

In its article, 'AL ZAHAF said that one could withdraw from this organisation on the basis of any of several conditions including if the UN could not guarantee the protection of the principles of law, justice, peace or security. It said that the organisation had become incapable of preserving peace and security for less powerful nations which are under threat of attack by the powerful nations.

In its article, the 'AL ZAHAF AL AKHDAR' said that it is only the Arabs who are expected to comply with UN resolutions, even if these resolutions are unjust or illogical. This, the newspaper said, was in contrast to the intransigence and opposition of the Zionist entity to comply with any resolution adopted by the UN. Despite this, no measures were ever taken to penalise them for their refusal while the most stringent of measures are imposed on the Arabs.

The newspaper spoke of the double standards used by the United Nations in all its dealings saying that the Arabs are usually the target of UN resolutions and that the Zionists are the only ones who are able to avoid complying with resolutions, without fear of rebuke.

The newspaper ended this article by calling for a withdrawal from the United Nations based on the stipulations of international law and norms.

Opposition Leaders Discusses Future After al-Qadhdhafi

PM0312155093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Conclusion of Libyan Opposition Seminar in Washington"]

[Text] Washington—A seminar attended by Libyan opposition leaders and figures concluded its work in Washington yesterday. It covered the various aspects of the situation in Libya and proposed a future concept for Libya after the downfall of the current regime there. It was held under the slogan "Libya After al-Qadhdhafi."

The seminar, which began the day before yesterday, was attended by Ambassador 'Izz-al-Din al-Qadamis, official spokesman of the Libyan National Democratic Forces; Bashir al-Rabiti, leader of the Libyan National Organization; 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush, former Libyan prime minister; Ibrahim Mahd, political commissioner of the Salvation Front [National Front for the Salvation of Libya]; Colonel Khalifah Haftar, commander of the Libyan National Liberation Army; Mahmud Dakhil Dawud, secretary general of the Salvation Front; and others.

In his speech, Ambassador al-Qadamis reaffirmed the constant principles of Libyan national action and the need to provide a national democratic alternative. He said the way to Libya's stability is to be found in the establishment of a national democratic regime based on political plurality and a constitution that respects human rights.

Dr. Hasan al-Ashhab, 'Ashur al-Shamisi, and Fudayl al-Amin participated in the second day's (yesterday's) discussions and answered questions from those present. A political dialogue developed after the first day in which a number of technical experts and specialists participated, including Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Salih, and Ahmad Misbah 'Uraybi. They discussed the economic ruin that has befallen Libya under the current regime.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Bayyul, Major 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mudaththir, and Ibril Asways discussed such issues as the Libyan regime's destruction of the Libyan Armed Forces by throwing them into losing battles; Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's dreams about possessing weapons of mass destruction; his involvement in support for international terrorism; and the regime's torture, coercion, and displacement of the Libya people.

It is worth noting that the seminar was attended by a large number of people including officials from the U.S. National Security Council and State Department as well as poets, former U.S. officials, experts and others interested in Libyan affairs. It was supervised by Dr. Henry Schuller [name as transliterated], the expert on Libyan affairs in the U.S. Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Supports Gaza-Jericho Accord

EA0412172093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The president of the republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has attributed the failure in reaching a settlement of the southern problem to interference from forces opposed to peace in Sudan, especially from the United States. His excellency said that Sudan attached great hopes to the initiative of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development states to bring about peace in the country. He stated these positions at a news conference held with members of the international press corps at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Lieutenant General al-Bashir denied that Sudan was a source of terrorism or a supporter of terrorism, pointing out that Khartoum was regarded as one of the most peaceful and stable cities in the world.

Concerning Sudan's stand on the Gaza-Jericho Accord, the president of the republic said that Sudan would support the settlement, which ensured self-determination for Palestinians and the setting up of an independent state of their own in a territory having Jerusalem as its capital.

Declares Khartoum Secure

EA0512211593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] President al-Bashir has told the BBC correspondent that Khartoum is enjoying more security and stability than London.

Answering a question in a press conference yesterday about demonstrations in Khartoum, President al-Bashir asked the BBC correspondent to compare the recent London explosions with the single school demonstration in the Sudan.

On the economic situation the president indicated that the 1989 budget embodied 70 percent of its revenue from foreign aid, but now the foreign aid has dropped to five percent due to Sudan's Islamic orientation. He further reiterated that despite all the adverse circumstances, the Sudan has achieved a 13 percent growth rate economically, being the highest in the world.

President al-Bashir reaffirmed Sudan's rejection to the setting up of secure zones in the country, affirming that Sudan will resist any attempts to interfere in its domestic affairs.

Denies Religious Discrimination

EA0612114693 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—President General 'Umar al-Bashir has stressed that there was no racial or religious discrimination in Sudan, indicating that Sudan lived in religious tolerance. Addressing a mass rally here today, held by the people of southern Sudan and Nuba mountains in southern Kordofan, al-Bashir said that the National Salvation Revolution has come to rescue Sudan, pointing out steps taken by the government for realizing peace. He indicated the implementation of [a] federal system of government and exemption of [the] south from Shari'ah laws, pointing out that the decision of redividing the region had come to offer more federalism and popular power.

Al-Bashir spoke about the obstacle placed before achievement of peace, pointing out the powers that di[d] not want [the] restoration of peace in Sudan and the plots of the powers in addition to false accusation disseminated through the western mass media. He said the Sudanese lived in religious tolerance unrivalled in the West, pointing [out] that Sudan would remain the home of oppressed people. He said Sudan has hosted more than one million refugees from neighbouring countries while European countries refused to receive the nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

General al-Bashir stressed that positions in Sudan were available for all Sudanese, southerners and northerners alike, and renewed amnesty for those carrying arms against the government to come for negotiations, indicating the government's endeavour for peace. [sentence as received]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets With 'Arafat To Discuss Peace Process

LD0512184693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali visited the headquarters of the PLO this afternoon, where he had a meeting with the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

An official spokesman for the presidency said that President Ben Ali's visit to meet the Palestinian president reflected the extent of his care about the Palestinian cause and his eagerness to follow up developments of that cause with the leadership, particularly at this critical juncture in the Middle East peace process.

The official spokesman said that the meeting between the two presidents focused on the state of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and that 'Arafat had briefed President Ben Ali on the details of the ongoing negotiations and the Palestinian side's stance regarding developments in the negotiations, particularly in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region.

The official spokesman said that during the meeting, Ben Ali had reaffirmed Tunisia's persistent support for all efforts that would strengthen the cause of the Palestinian people and the Middle East peace process.

Ben Ali Recieves Bosnian Presidency Member

LD0412184893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a letter from Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic. The letter was handed to him this afternoon at Carthage Palace by Ejup Ganic, Bosnian vice president [title as heard] and Mr. Izetbegovic's personal envoy. After the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and the Bosnian ambassador in Tunis, Ganic declared that he was very happy to be here and said that Tunisia played a major role in the international community to guarantee Bosnia's sovereignty and independence. He added: Your country is a model owing to the style it adopts to deal with issues and solve problems in various fields. We are learning from the

Tunisian people and their president in order to continue our struggle for the independence and protection of our country.

After stating that he had conveyed the Bosnian president's greetings to President Ben Ali and the Tunisian people, he indicated that he had briefed the head of state on the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Geneva negotiations, and the talks under way. The Bosnian envoy also said that he was happy with Tunisia's support for the Bosnian cause, President Ben Ali's advice and ideas, and his determination to continue contacts with leaders in the world and in the international community with a view to finding a solution to the Bosnian issue and put an end to the aggression against its people in order to enable them to reach a just and lasting peace.

Saudi Arabia

Envoy to UK Denies Report on Need for Loans

LD0412201193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1758 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] London, 4 Dec (SPA)—Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United Kingdom, has categorically denied reports disseminated by Western media regarding Saudi Arabia's efforts to obtain loans to meet its budget deficit.

He said: "Those reports are absolutely untrue, and there are no negotiations between the Kingdom and any banking institutions in the West or elsewhere to obtain loans." Dr. al-Qusaybi made this statement in an interview broadcast last night on the BBC Arabic service.

He also said: "The Kingdom has not requested any loans from world institutions or banks. The $4.5 billion mentioned by observers was the only sum borrowed by the Kingdom from abroad; there were no other loans".

Regarding the deficit in the Kingdom's state budget, Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi said: "It is strange that people raise this issue now, regardless of the fact that for the last six or seven years there has been a difference between expenditure and revenue in the budget. The difference used to be financed by internal loans, and this was no secret. The new element is that the Kingdom suffered huge losses amounting to $55 billion during the Gulf crisis, yet managed to overcome the financial crisis."

Referring to the statements made by sources at the Bank of International Settlements about the fact that the Saudi Government borrowed $2.2 billion as of November of this year, the Kingdom's ambassador in London said: "The Bank of International Settlements established criteria for the ratio of internal and external indebtedness over the past few years, and set up some broad parameters whereby the ratio of indebtedness should not exceed 60 percent of gross national product. In fact, the internal and external indebtedness of the Kingdom, as the Bank of International Settlements knows, is nowhere near 60 percent."

Al-Qusaybi reiterated that the Kingdom's foreign indebtedness did not exceed $4.5 billion. However, he added: "The Kingdom was not expecting anyone to be anxious and was not expecting anyone to tell it about its responsibilities in this respect. If the Saudi Kingdom had a percentage of uncollectable debts or high risk debts like most banks do, this problem would have been solved. The weight of government expenditure continues to be felt, but one should remember that this kind of expenditure is being carried out within the framework of the government's desire not to hurt the citizen."

Replying to a question on the lowering of personal income in the Kingdom, Dr. al-Qusaybi said: "I think the real measurement here should be the inflation rate. I believe the rate of inflation in the Kingdom is one of the lowest in the world."

Concerning the fall in oil prices and the repercussions of such a fall on the Kingdom's economy, the Kingdom's ambassador to London said: "I think we cannot judge oil prices on a daily basis. Surely OPEC will be taking suitable measures to keep oil prices as reasonable as possible. What happened this week should not, however, be taken as criteria for what oil prices will be in the coming months."

King Meets Visiting U.S. Defense Official

LD0412224093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2212 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 4 December, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God preserve him, received Frank George Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for general policy, and the accompanying delegation at his office this evening. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Sources on 'Deal' for U.S. Diplomat's Release

PM0612140393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah from Aden and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Sanaa: ""Letter of Guarantees' Facilitated the Release of the U.S. Diplomat"]

[Excerpt] Informed Yemeni sources have confirmed that the release of Haynes Mahoney, the information official at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, was the result of a "deal" between Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Naji al-Ghadir, chief of the Khawlan tribes and chairman of the Higher Council of Yemeni Tribes (the Saba' conference); Shaykh Muhsin Bin-'Ali Mu'ayli; and the kidnapper, Captain Shaykh Mubarak al-Mashn Al Za'idi.

In a previous statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil had denied any concessions by the authorities.

The sources said that the deal included "a letter of guarantees," two Land Cruiser 1993 cars (each worth over 1 million Yemeni riyals), two machine guns, and a written undertaking to meet the demands made of the authorities by the abductors in the Jahm area.

The following sums up these demands:

1. Financial compensation for a piece of land expropriated for the purpose of building the Kawfal oil pumping station alongside the pipelines leading to the Red Sea.

2. Promotion of 150 soldiers and officers from Jahm in Ma'rib and improvement of their financial situation.

3. Giving that area the same treatment given to other areas in the development projects.

It has also been confirmed that Mahoney, who was treated well during his detention, was given a machine gun and an ammunition belt as a gift when he was

released. Yahya al-Shami, the governor of Ma'rib, then signed an official declaration acknowledging the handing over of the U.S. diplomat before the latter was flown by helicopter to Sanaa early yesterday morning. It is not known if he intends to continue to work in Yemen or take up another post in Washington.

Other sources said that the guarantees which led to Mahoney's release were in the form of a commitment by Interior Minister Brig. Gen. Yahya al-Mutawakkil to follow up the demands of the Jahm tribe and later solve its problems, and also a promise not to hunt the kidnappers. It is worth noting that the tribal shaykhs who mediated in the case of the kidnapping refuse to arrest the kidnappers "because they have fair demands on the state." [passage omitted]

Official Denies Troop Movements in Ta'izz Area

JN0412132393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Yemeni General People's Congress has stated that the party abides by Yemeni unity and refuses all separatist alternatives which the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] or any other political party is putting forward.

The spokesman denied reports by SAWT AL-'UMMAL, mouthpiece of the YSP, on military movements in the Ta'izz area toward the southern areas.

President Accepts al-Bid's 18 Conditions

NC0512142893 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 5 (AFP)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said he would accept conditions set by his rivals in the south to end the country's political crisis, in remarks published here on Sunday [5 December].

"I announce for the first time that I unilaterally accept the 18 points presented by the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)," Salih told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-KHALIJ.

His comments coincided with a report by the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that he would meet Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Amman soon to resolve their dispute, which has threatened the country's fragile unity.

Salih said al-Bid, who leads the YSP, and all other YSP leaders "should now sit at the negotiating table with their partners in the Yemeni coalition to work out a mechanism and timetable" for implementing reforms. He added that such talks would be "the ideal solution to the crisis."

On Saturday, AL-KHALIJ quoted a spokesman for al-Bid as saying the vice president, who has refused to quit Aden in the south since August 19, was ready to end his boycott of the authorities in Sanaa if Salih agreed to withdraw troops from major cities, step up measures to stabilise Yemen and decentralise the government.

The demands were among 18 points which al-Bid presented to Salih's General People's Congress to defuse the crisis, caused by differences over the implementation of unification.

Asked if he was ready to go to Aden, Salih said, "this could happen after al-Bid takes the oath before parliament."

Al-Bid has refused to take up his duties as vice president in Sanaa.

Al-Bid ruled south Yemen and Salih was president of the north before the two parts were reunited in May 1990, ending nearly three centuries of separation.

However, several problems have emerged, including repeated armed attacks in north and south and difficulties over integrating the army.

The semi-official AL-ITTIHAD said King Husayn of Jordan was involved in mediation efforts and expected Salih and al-Bid to meet in Amman.

"There is a strong possibility that the differences between the two sides will be solved following meetings between Jordanian officials and Yemeni leaders," it quoted a government official in Amman as saying.

Basindwah Warns Against Division

NC0612113693 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 6 (AFP)—A political crisis between northern and southern Yemen has redivided the country, Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Basindwah warned Monday [6 December].

"There is an unannounced split," he told the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ.

"The only thing left is to declare the split. But so far, they are embarrassed to do so although, unfortunately, they are practising it," said the foreign minister, without naming names.

"When, God forbid, such a split is officially announced, I would not be surprised that some countries recognise the party which declares the secession and becomes a state."

Yemen was reunited in May 1990 after more than three centuries of separation.

But the merger faces political obstacles which have led to the current rift between President 'Ali Abdallah Salih of the north and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid of the south.

In a bid to defuse the crisis, Salih said Sunday that he accepted 18 of al-Bid's demands for changes in the running of the country and called for talks to work out a timetable to implement the reforms.

Al-Bid has said he was ready to end his boycott of the authorities in Sanaa if Salih agreed to withdraw troops from major cities, step up measures to stabilize Yemen and decentralize the government.

Asked what Yemen would do to prevent either side from seceding, Basindwah said: "We have not yet thought of any effort because we still dream of the continuation of unity.

"Secession would amount to a crime against our people and homeland, and it would undermine the greatest dream of our people. If this happens, history will never forgive the perpetrators."

Basindwah said the United States and other industrial countries were supporters of Yemen's unity because separation would serve a blow to democracy.

Separation would lead to instability, which in turn would harm security throughout the Arabian Peninsula, home to nearly half the world's oil reserves and a major source of crude supplies for industrial nations, he said.

Jordanian Envoy Arrives for Mediation Effort

JN0412133293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, 4 Dec (INA)—Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court and Jordan's King Husayn Bin-Talal's envoy, arrived in Aden, southern Yemen, today as part of King Husayn's efforts to resolve the current political crisis in Yemen.

Informed Yemeni sources said that the Jordanian envoy will meet with Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Aden later today before he meets with Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

It is noteworthy that the chief of the Jordanian Royal Court visited Yemen Mid-November and met with the Yemeni president and his deputy within the framework of the Jordanian efforts to arrange a meeting between President Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid to end the four-month political crisis in Yemen.

Al-Bid Receives Jordanian Envoy

JN0412173593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] In Aden today, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Jordan's Royal Court chief, who gave him a letter from his brother His Majesty King Husayn dealing with brotherly bilateral ties and issues of shared interest. They talked about bilateral ties and looked into ways to deepen them and reviewed political developments. [words indistinct]

Coalition Clashes on 'Secessionist' Charges

PM0612110793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 1

[Ma'mun Yusuf report: "Socialist Party Escalates Confrontation with General People's Congress and Accuses It of Seeking To Abort Yemen's Unity"]

[Text] Sanaa—The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has vehemently criticized its partner in the coalition government, the General People's Congress [GPC] led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, accusing it of harboring "a real secessionist desire" and noting that the current situation in Yemen "is still below the level of merger or even federation."

A strongly worded statement issued by the YSP Political Bureau in Aden (the economic capital of Yemen) Tuesday [30 November] evening expressed astonishment at the "fabricated clamor" raised about a statement made by its Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad calling for a federal system in Yemen and favoring division of the country into three or four regions each enjoying development and internal security powers.

Indirectly adopting Salim Salih's call, the statement said that the party "will not be deterred by a fabricated clamor and continues to believe in moving forward toward reform that would keep Yemen united. It will respect the views expressed by any of its members and anyone outside the party provided it is convinced that these views stem from an unshakable faith in unity. There is nobody in the party who does not have such faith."

Salim Salih's statement had provoked sharp reactions from GPC officials and House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar who is also the leader of the Islamic Reform Movement. That has led to the "indefinite" postponement of the "national dialogue" between the main Yemeni parties, that was supposed to start last Sunday [28 November].

House Discusses Committee Report on Crisis

JN0512135093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] In a session held this morning under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, the House listened to a report prepared by the parliamentary follow-up committee assigned the task of ascertaining the facts pertaining to the current political crisis to follow up on the implementation of the House's instructions, which asked the government to ensure that the concerned parties put an end to media vituperations, parochialism, and sectarian prejudice, and to guarantee that senior state officials observe a halt to statements and speeches which could aggravate the crisis. These instructions also asked the government to remove all manifestations of tension and makeshift military checkpoints, and not to erect any new military checkpoints.

These directives also urged the government to expedite the process of instructing the competent authorities to submit those charged with assassinations, explosions, highway robberies, and security disturbances to public trials. Those at large must be pursued, wherever they may be, so they may be brought to justice. The House had also instructed the government to perform the tasks

and duties assigned to it by the Constitution, to implement the provisions enshrined in the program it submitted to the House of Representatives to win a vote of confidence, to take into account the remarks made on this program by deputies, and to submit a detailed report to the House on what has been accomplished of this program, particularly with regard to urgent issues that have to do with people's security and livelihood. The report must also list the duties the government has failed to accomplish thus far; the reasons for the failure to accomplish these duties must also be noted, so the House may take the proper measures on this.

The report also addressed the results of the missions of the parliamentary subcommittees which made field fact-finding visits to the areas located along the axis of Dhamar-Qa'tabah, al-Dali'-Aden, to the areas located along the axis of Sanaa-Dhamar-al-Bayda'-Abyan-Aden, and also to some areas in the Ma'rib and Shabwah Provinces to ensure that recent makeshift checkpoints have been vacated.

The report also included clarifications provided by the House of Representatives speaker and his deputies about the current political crisis as well as their views toward this issue, in terms of causes, negative aspects, and the proper remedial action that could be undertaken to defuse the crisis.

The report also included replies and detailed clarifications provided by the interior minister, the information minister, and the prosecutor general on security issues and the progress of investigations into these issues, the latest of which is the case of student Kamil al-Hamid. The report also addressed the media aspects pertaining to banning newspapers and magazines from publishing sensational news reports that could aggravate the crisis, something which could conflict with the national interest and further exacerbate the crisis.

The report also affirmed the need for cooperation betwee the House of Representatives and the government to safeguard the unity and cohesion of these two institutions so they may perform their tasks and make concerted efforts to create healthy climates that could allow all parties to defuse the crisis. This could help all parties make serious and effective national efforts, each from his own position, to reach responsible and sound solutions to end the crisis, build a modern Yemeni state, entrench unity, and enhance the democratization process in the country. The parties to the coalition, the report said, must continue with their dialogue confidently and responsibly, particularly since they are the parties directly concerned with this issue. Moreover, such an effort is badly needed to drastically resolve this crisis.

Salih Receives Libyan Envoy, al-Qadhdhafi Note

JN0512204293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brother Sulayman [name indistinct], secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and envoy of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution. The Libyan envoy conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning issues of concern to brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries, developments on the Arab arena, and issues of concern to our Arab nation.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that the message voiced fraternal Libya's concern for establishing the march of unity and democracy in our country, and Libya's interest in promoting that march to translate the aspirations and hopes of our Arab masses in the greater Arab homeland. It also stressed Libya's support for all virtuous and noble efforts exerted to overcome the challenges facing our country as a result of the current political crisis.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and the deputy director of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa attended.

Al-Bid Holds 'First Contact' With Kuwaiti Envoy

PM0612112793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 3

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Al-Bid Receives Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires"]

[Text] Aden—'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, received Mansur al-'Awadi, charge d'affaires at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Sanaa, in Aden yesterday and reviewed with him the latest developments pertaining to the current political crisis in Yemen as well as bilateral relations between Sanaa and Kuwait which had suffered as a result of the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Political sources say that al-Bid reaffirmed the importance of strengthening and developing relations between the Yemeni and Kuwaiti peoples in the interests of the two fraternal countries. The sources did not reveal whether al-'Awadi conveyed a message to al-Bid from the Kuwaiti Government. This is the first contact between al-Bid and a Kuwaiti diplomat since the beginning of the current crisis.

UN Letter on Monitoring Plan Reported

JN0412120493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The UN Security Council last night officially welcomed Iraq's decision to accept the monitoring plan stipulated by Resolution 715.

This emerged in an official letter sent by Li Zhaoxing, China's envoy and president of the Security Council for December, to Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The INA correspondent in New York cites the UN Security Council president as saying in his letter that he will continue to follow up Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

China's ambassador told journalists that the deliberations by Security Council members yesterday, Friday, included a briefing by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission. He said that Ekeus briefed the Council on his recent talks with the Iraqi officials and the positive developments associated with these talks.

The Chinese ambassador said the Security Council members voiced satisfaction with these positive developments and decided to send a letter to the Iraqi Government to express their satisfaction with this development, and that the Council will continue to follow up the implementation of the monitoring and verification plans.

Meanwhile, after leaving the UN Security Council deliberations last night, Ambassador Ekeus told journalists that the Security Council is satisfied with the process which started in July's meeting in Baghdad.

Ambassador Ekeus said Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is very clear to us and Iraq shares with us this conviction. He said: It will be unwise for the Security Council to make any changes. The Special Commission and the IAEA have commitments stipulated in Paragraph 22, and it is not our duty to interpret the other resolutions.

Radio Urges UN To Prove 'Credibility'

JN0412204793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 4 Dec 93

["Political Commentary" by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja'; from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Excerpt] Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, has received a letter from the UN Security Council. The letter was delivered by the Chinese ambassador, this month's president of the UN Security Council. The letter presents the UN Security Council's official welcome of Iraq's decision to approve the monitoring plan in accordance with Resolution 715.

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Commission, who attended the Security Council's consultations session yesterday, Friday, said the Security Council is satisfied with the progress of the process which began with July's meeting in Baghdad. Ambassador Ekeus affirmed: Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is very clear to us, and Iraq shares this conviction with us. He said: It would be unwise for the UN Security Council to make any changes. The Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency have commitments stipulated in Paragraph 22. It is not our duty to interpret other resolutions.

These clear and specific words pave the way for the practical implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 after the paragraphs concerning Part C of the resolution were implemented.

If the UN Security Council wants to prove its credibility, then it should realize that Resolution 687 itself places commitments on it in return for the commitments Iraq has honored. This has been acknowledged by international circles [words indistinct], particularly the implementation of Paragraph 22 of the resolution, about which Ekeus says that it is very clear and that Iraq shares with the commission this conviction.

What remains is that the council's credibility is now put to a practical test. The letter of appreciation, thanks, and gratitude alone is not enough. It should be accompanied by action to prove that the council understands Resolution 687 in isolation of any other interpretations of other resolutions, especially those that were issued by one or more of the effective and influential Security Council member states.

Unless words are accompanied by deeds, credibility will collapse. The (?value) and international status of the United Nations depend on its ability to prove its independence and objectivity and not to yield to the pressures of the influential Western powers, particularly the United States. [passage omitted]

BABIL Criticizes Clinton's Sanctions Report

JN0412092793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has strongly criticized U.S. President Clinton's report to the Congress on the unjust sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In an article today under the headline "Judging Intentions," the paper expresses surprise over the fact that the United States, the most powerful nation in the world, is basing its position on mere "assumptions" and "intentions," words which were incorporated in the U.S. President's report. The report says that Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn still "intends" to reequip his forces with weapons of mass destruction, and that Iraq "may" have succeeded in concealing its military activity from the UN inspectors.

The paper stresses that the aforementioned report was based on imaginations by the decisionmaker and not on facts or reports supplied by the UN agencies on the subject which the U.S. President is dealing with in his report.

The paper notes that the case which Clinton discusses in his report is now very clear, and so is the way in which Iraq is dealing with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Officials from these agencies have voiced satisfaction with the way in which both parties are coordinating to reach the point when the UN Security Council fulfills its commitments as stipulated in its own resolutions.

The paper concludes its article by saying: As acknowledged by these officials, Iraq has fulfilled its commitments. Now, the UN Security Council should fulfill its own.

Paper Welcomes Turkish Decision To Resume Trade

JN0512115693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges non-Western and non-American states to pursue independent policies so they may enjoy freedom of movement and ensure their peoples a decent living as well as prosperity—objectives that are unachievable unless they shun subservience to the imperialist West.

Commenting on a report published by the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET that Turkey has decided to resume its trade with Iraq, AL-THAWRAH today describes this decision as a sound and rational one, since it would promote the interests of the Turkish people, who have sustained grave losses as a result of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq, as the Turkish people are well aware.

The paper notes the historical ties between the two neighboring Muslim states of Iraq and Turkey, saying: Turkey is a neighboring Muslim state, and the Iraqi and Turkish peoples have much in common. Their relationship dates back to ancient times. Given all this, it is strange that Turkey should continue to contribute to the anti-Iraq embargo although it is certain that Iraq has honored all its obligations and commitments.

The paper stresses that any Turkish decision to resume trade with Iraq will, first and foremost, promote the political, economic, and security interests of Turkey. It remains to be said, the paper argues, that any such decision should have been made a long time ago.

The paper affirms that Iraq will continue to show steadfastness and determination to achieve final victory in order to thwart the evildoers' schemes. The paper adds that the Iraqi people are well aware that the embargo will erode, and that their steadfastness will reinforce the Iraqi trench, whereas the trench of those enforcing the embargo, enemies of mankind who are hostile to the peoples' quest for freedom, will erode.

Concluding, the paper says that future prospects are wider than petty people, wherever they may be, think. For the doors the Iraqis are pushing at will open. As for the victorious people, they will reappear on the international scene, with open minds, with hearts filled with faith, and with heads held high, the paper maintains. Independent Iraq will remain protected under the banner of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the paper says.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Iran's POW Allegations

JN0612100893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Iraq has refuted allegations by the Iranian regime that it has been holding around 8,000 Iranian POW's, including soldiers, since the shah's days in power.

In a statement to INA today, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman said these empty allegations again highlight the nature of the Iranian regime's self-induced predicament because it concealed information about the death of its troops on the battlefield.

The spokesman advised the Iranian side to abandon the method of maneuvering and exploitation of these humanitarian issues, assume its legal responsibilities, and deal seriously and in good faith with Iraq so as to close the file of POW's and MIA's, in full cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The following is the text of the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement:

On Sunday, 5 December 1993, IRNA attributed a statement to Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, head of the POW committee in Iran, claiming that Iraq has been holding around 8,000 POW's, including soldiers, since the shah's days in power. Nazaran claimed the soldiers were captured during what he called military confrontations in 1975.

These empty allegations highlight again the nature of the Iranian regime's self-induced predicament as a result of concealing information about the death of its soldiers on the battlefield. Instead of telling the truth, the Iranian regime has deliberately sought to launch a series of lies and allegations that there are Iranians who are still held prisoner in Iraq. Obviously, these lies are meant to mislead Iranian public opinion and hide the truth.

Stemming from the principle of good faith, Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations with regard to the POW's. Iraq has also cooperated positively with the ICRC and Iranian authorities and managed, as of 17 August 1990, to return all Iranian POW's.

More than 39,340 POW's were returned to Iran. There are no Iranian POW's left in Iraq, except for a few

Iranians who refused to return. Those people are registered with the ICRC. Also, an Iranian delegation visited them and spoke to them.

The irresponsible statements made by Iranian officials every now and then confirm the Iranian Government's lack of seriousness and that it has no desire to resolve outstanding problems with Iraq, primarily releasing Iraqi POW's.

We advise the Iranian side to abandon the method of maneuvering and exploitation of these humanitarian issues, assume its legal responsibilities, and deal seriously and in good faith with Iraq so as to close the file of POW's and MIA's, in full cooperation with the ICRC.

We also appeal to the ICRC to assume its responsibilities and demand that the Iranian Government end the suffering of registered and unregistered Iraqi POW's and repatriate them.

Opposition: 2 Administrative Officers Dismissed

NC0312204493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] After the regime accused some administrative officers of failing to contain the heroic operations of our heroic mujahidin, the ruling regime in Baghdad has made some changes among the ranks of these administrative officers in the south. The sources of our mujahidin noted that the tyrant Saddam's regime dismissed the two district administrative officers of al-Qurnah and (al-Mudaynah) in the Governorate of al-Basrah. He appointed two new officers in their place after the two completely failed to control the deteriorating military and security situation, especially after the operations of al-Hasan, God bless him, which our heroic mujahidin carried out.

Government Workers Ordered To Train With Arms

NC0412155493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] In a measure designed to distract the wronged Iraqi people's attention from the tragedy they live, the regime of the tyrant Saddam recently issued instructions compelling all government employees under 40 to train in the use of weapons.

A resolution by the so-called Revolution Command Council ordered that all eligible employees must participate in this make-believe activity.

The resolution threatened to dismiss any employee who fails to comply with the training instructions at the set times. Training times and dates will be arranged for every Iraqi province.

Many employees have said they resent the resolution and one of them told our sources in al-Basrah: We use every opportunity we can outside our official hours of duty to seek other employment to feed our families. As for weapons, they have brought us only tragedy, hunger, and displacement.

28-30 Nov Airspace 'Violations' Reported

JN0512170393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (INA)—Iraq has again protested the continued provision of facilities by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., French, and British aircraft to violate Iraq's airspace and jeopardize its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that the aforementioned aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace during period 28-30 November, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These aircraft carried out 113 hostile air sorties during that period, the letter noted.

The Iraqi delegate attached to his letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the Arab League members be apprised of these developments.

Memo to UN Protests 23-30 Nov Overflights

JN0512133793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] New York, 5 Dec (INA)—Iraq has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general, protesting Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. aircraft, which overflew Iraqi territory for purposes of surveillance and harassment.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN chief, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations said that the U.S. aircraft overflew several areas in Iraq, noting that these aircraft conducted 373 hostile air sorties, not to mention three reconnaissance flights conducted by the plane TR-1, during the period 23-30 November.

The Iraqi delegate requested that his memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Christopher Arrives for Talks With Peres, Rabin

Peres on 'Productive' Meeting

TA0512080893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0745 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem "following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher"—live, in English]

[Text] I would like to welcome Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his colleagues upon their visit to Israel. It is not a secret that to implement the peace is quite a demanding situation and effort, yet I am convinced that the opportunities are richer and greater than the problems. We had this morning a very productive meeting. I think we covered quite a wide field of possibilities and my own feeling is that this is a timely visit and a serious attempt to further the peace process so it will become comprehensive, permanent, responsible, for the benefit of all countries in the Middle East. I know that we have to deal with difficulties, but today, more than ever before, I do believe that we are on the right track and I do believe that the contribution of the secretary of state is essential and timely and positive. It is in this spirit that I welcome you here to our country and to our office. Thank you.

Peres Urges More U.S. Involvement

TA0512093793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] At this morning's meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister Peres, the American visitor was briefed on the progress made in the talks with Jordan and with the Palestinians. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Peres asked the United States to increase its involvement in the multilateral track. The two men also reviewed the deployment of forces in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean. They also discussed the status of Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. At the end of their meeting, Christopher said that while he was aware of the fear and concern, he was also aware of the high expectations surrounding the peace process. He called on all parties to refrain from violence. [passage omitted]

Withdrawal Delay Said Agreed With 'Arafat

TA0512195393

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 5 December, reporting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit, notes the following: "Sources in Jerusalem this evening confirmed that an agreement was reached with Yasir 'Arafat on a two-week delay in the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho." The report later adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that if he returns with a positive message from Damascus, Israel will not hold up the negotiations with Syria."

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 5 December reports that "prior to departing for Damascus, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a second meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Christopher agreed with Rabin's request to make an interval of a few months between the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians and the negotiations with Syria."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 5 December carries a report by Jack Katzenell on remarks made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening to the effect that "it is always time to move ahead to bring about a peace treaty with the three neighboring Arab countries with which Israel has been negotiating for over two years since the Madrid peace conference." Katzenell notes that "Rabin was at pains to dispel the impression that he has deliberately put the negotiations with Syria on the back burner until the agreement with the Palestinians has been implemented."

In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "I believe also that these Arab countries are interested in peace, including Syria, but the question is what is the definition of peace on the part of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and what is the price that they ask for their interpretation of the word and the meaning of peace in the context of signing a peace treaty between them and us." Katzenell quotes Rabin as saying that "this should be a matter for negotiations."

Rabin Spokesman Welcomes Syrian Offer

TA0612113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Syria welcomes the U.S. attempt to renew the peace process, and President al-Asad dangled a carrot for the United States and perhaps Israel: He agreed to grant 800 exit permits for Syrian Jews, and expressed willingness to assist an investigation by a Congressional delegation into the fate of the Israeli MIA's and POW's in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

This report also yielded a positive reaction from the Defense Ministry. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the defense minister's spokesman, welcomed the U.S. secretary of state's announcement regarding the Syrian offer:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] We are waiting for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to return to Israel tonight, after he concludes his meetings in Damascus and Amman. We are also waiting for the receipt of first-hand information about the Syrian stand regarding the efforts to attain information about the fate of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] MIA's. Naturally, any assistance in information which will help ending this affair is welcome. We very much hope that the painful affair of our MIA's can be wrapped up as soon as possible. It is an open wound that has not been healed for much too long.

We very much hope that the U.S. Congressional team, and perhaps the Syrian aid, will help bringing this painful affair to a close. [end recording]

Peres: No Need for Haste in Syria Talks

TA0612135793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said there is no need for haste in the negotiations with Syria. He said Israel is waiting for adequate answers to four questions: the substance of the peace, security arrangements, the handling of the negotiations, and the Lebanese problem. Only if we receive answers to these questions will we negotiate, Mr. Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Foreign Minister Peres noted that Israel has not presented maps on a Golan Heights withdrawal and that the United States has not requested such maps.

Peres Assesses State of Peace Negotiations

TA0412190493 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Nissim Mish'al; date not given; from the "One on One" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mish'al] Are you aware of the fact that Israeli public support for the agreement with the Palestinians has greatly eroded? Are you concerned about this erosion?

[Peres] No, I am not concerned about it. I think a government is not a hospital. We do not have to measure the temperature of all the patients every morning. We must wait until the process ends. I am aware that in the beginning there is always enthusiasm, which later subsides and turns into criticism, despair, and then there is [word indistinct]. I am not concerned at all. I am convinced we did the right thing at the right time. We had no doubt that we would have to go through a period of criticism and pain, but we will persevere.

[Mish'al] You are speaking about the right time. Will the agreement's implementation start on time, on 13 December?

[Peres] There are chances for this. Look, 13 December is the opening day of the implementation, not the final day. We still have four months to implement the agreement, and I believe that these four months will enable us to stick to the timetable.

[Mish'al] Do we need American involvement? Secretary Christopher is arriving in Israel, and some people are already saying that the United States will intervene in the negotiations. Do we require this help?

[Peres] I think the Palestinian side needs such help more than we do. One of the main problems faced by the Palestinians is the financial issue. Doubtlessly, the U.S. organizational contribution in bringing about the donors conference—which we initiated—was a decisive contribution, perhaps even more significant than its financial contribution.

[Mish'al] What you are saying then, is that there is no crisis, no impasse. Does it all boil down to the Palestinians seeking American financial help?

[Peres] No, what I am saying is that declarations on crises are part of the negotiating process. In Oslo, too, we underwent many crises, threats, and interruptions. At that time, however, these things were not publicized. Part of this is simply a matter of the negotiating process, of assessing the possibilities on the ground and the other side's nerves.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, let us talk about the situation on the ground. I understand that one of the difficult issues is that of the control over the border passages. Will you support giving the authority to the PLO?

[Peres] No. This issue was also raised in Oslo, and then we made it absolutely clear to the Palestinians we have no intention of forgoing control over the border crossing points, because for us this constitutes a problem both in terms of security and foreign relations.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, let us turn to another issue, that of the detainees. Will Israel meet the Palestinians halfway on this issue?

[Peres] We are not interested in holding the detainees after we transfer the authority to the Palestinians. One of the ...ain ideas raised in the agreement was to have the Palestinians deal with the rioters and those who use firearms. We will stop being the Gaza Strip cop, and they will shoulder the double responsibility of managing affairs and of dealing with those who try to prevent normal life.

[Mish'al] What you are saying, then, is that there is an argument on the issue of the border passages and that the problem of the detainees will be solved. We remain left with the problem of the territorial contiguity of the Qatif Bloc settlements.

[Peres] We already reached an agreement on this issue, but apparently the Palestinians reneged on it. I believe we will solve this problem as well. Look, we knew that the alternative was either to agree to uproot the settlements, in which case we would have had hardly any security problems—as was the case in the Sinai— or to leave the settlers and settlements in place. In that case we knew the security issue would become much more complicated. We had to choose between splitting the nation in pieces and between finding a difficult, complicated, and unprecedented solution. I think we made the right choice. Let me make one general observation. Both the Palestinians and ourselves presently suffer the same symptoms. We both see the price of peace, but not its fruits. This is why there is such a feeling of frustration.

[Mish'al] You know, Mr. Peres, that one of the main headlines of the agreement was a commitment to end terrorism, but it did not stop. Jews continue to be murdered, the riots in the territories are continuing.

[Peres] You are mistaken. One of the clauses in the agreement stipulated that Fatah order its men to stop terrorism, and that 'Arafat appeal to all the Palestinians to stop terrorism. To the best of our knowledge both things were done by 'Arafat: He ordered Fatah men to stop terrorism, and he publicly appealed to the Palestinians to follow suit. It is hard to demand of him to do this, however, because he does not have the tools on the ground to deal with terrorism. At this point his appeal is on a verbal level, with all this implies. We have no doubts that 'Arafat has indeed ordered his men to halt terrorism.

[Mish'al] The settlers claim, and rightly so, that it makes no difference who is murdering them—'Arafat's men or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The question is whether the Israeli Government can guarantee the safety of the Jewish settlers in the territories?

[Peres] Just as much as previously. We must remember that the murders did not begin after Oslo. Unfortunately they started before Oslo, and at times on a much more extensive volume. There is nothing new here. What is new, hopefully, will be seen after the Palestinian administration and police force are established. I personally believe it was a mistake on our part to play the role of cops in Gaza, and it will be a mistake to remain in this role. Gaza does not belong to us. We are merely policemen there, and there is no logic and necessity in this.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, you were the knight of Gush Emunim and the man who initiated many settlements. Do you believe that in 1993 there are still some settlements with security value?

[Peres] First, I was not the knight of the settlements. I thank you for the compliment...

[Mish'al, interrupting] Mr. Peres, in 1974 you were one of the staunchest supporters of Gush Emunim.

[Peres] No, no, I was never a supporter of Gush Emunim. I always supported settlements in the Jerusalem area. I always believed that the issue of Jerusalem is at the heart of the conflict, and I mainly supported the settlements around Jerusalem because I wanted to strengthen Israel's capital city. The security situation has changed; today there are three new dimensions which were not so prominent in the past: The problems of missiles, nonconventional weapons, and stabbings. Missiles do not recognize borders; nonconventional weapons are indifferent to fronts or rear guards; and stabbings are a matter of motivation. We cannot claim that only two out of the five security problems we face are important, while three are insignificant. Any responsible person in Israel, whether he belongs to Gush Emunim or not, must give a fair and responsible answer to the question what is to be done in the age of missiles and how are nonconventional weapons to be dealt with. You know that the nightmare of the entire world is to have a union of nonconventional weapons with irresponsible religious extremism. This will be an irreversible situation. We should not continue harking back to the Hashomer organization [pre-state voluntary guard organization]. We must look ahead and try to assess where the new dangers are leading us to.

[Mish'al] Are you implying that the settlements in the territories have no more security value?

[Peres] No, I did not say this. I am saying that the exclusive and decisive value they used to have is no longer there, because difficult and extremely serious security problems have cropped up. I want to ask you—and I have the immediate security of your children and my own in mind—what is the settlers' answer to the issue of missiles and nonconventional weapons? They have no solution, nobody in the world has any solution other than in a regional framework and in a combination of weapon stockpiles and a political solution.

[Mish'al] Why do you not tell them the simple truth, namely that they have no business continuing to live in their present locations?

[Peres] Because this is not the truth. In my opinion they can remain where they are, and once there is a political arrangement we will see under what sovereignty they will live. There is no other truth.

I want to tell you something. I visited Princeton University, where I argued with all the professors who continued to treat our problem from the point of view of sovereignty. I reminded them that sovereignty is a relatively new invention. It was invented only during the 17th century; until then the world existed without any sovereignty. All the battles over sovereignty are limited in nature. I still do not know what type of sovereignty there will be in future, if any. The truth is that we need patience and goodwill and that we must see the real situation. [passage omitted]

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, when will the long-standing Israeli romance with King Husayn bear fruit, and when will the king come out of the closet and sign an agreement with Israel?

[Peres] Basically he has already come out of the closet. Let us look at this issue: Our eastern border, along the Jordan River, is the safest border between us and any Arab country. Do not forget that not even one shot was ever fired toward Israel from al-'Aqabah. Over the last months, when there was an attempt to cross from Jordan into Israel, the Jordanian Army prevented this. Jordan, contrary to Syria, joined the multilateral talks. Jordan, also contrary to Syria, signed an agenda with us, which is actually an outline of a peace agreement. The Jordanian crown prince met me in broad daylight under the auspices of President Clinton in the White House. We reached an agreement on the establishment of a joint

American-Jordanian-Israeli committee, and this committee met last week and bore fruit in the shape of an agreement on banks.

[Mish'al] So what is the obstacle on the way to signing an open agreement?

[Peres] Two things. First, I assess that the king wants to proceed more slowly than us. We are more temperamental [temperamentim; as heard] and have less to fear than he does. Second, there are several issues I believe the king wants to be further clarified.

[Mish'al] Can you hazard an assessment as to when this agreement will be signed?

[Peres] I can, but I think this is an unnecessary hazard.

[Mish'al] In that case let us turn to Syria. Columnists Evans and Novak write that the U.S. Administration has consolidated a Golan Heights withdrawal plan to be phased out over an eight year period, and that a U.S. force will be deployed on the Golan Heights. If such a proposal is raised, will you accept it?

[Peres] Under no circumstances will I answer such a proposal before the negotiations have started and before I even know for sure whether such a proposal really exists. I doubt whether the Americans will submit proposals. I believe the Americans will prefer to relay proposals from side to side, rather then risk a proposal which neither of the two sides will accept.

[Mish'al] Do you accept a proposal on these lines?

[Peres] I refuse to reply, because I refuse to hold negotiations before the negotiations. What I have clear in my mind are the principles, not any concrete proposals. These principles are: One, al-Asad must agree to a full peace rather than a crippled and amputated peace. Two, Syria must change its position regarding the issue of symmetry. It is inconceivable that they tell us that only if we demilitarize part of Israel will they demilitarize part of the Golan Heights. Three, the Syrians must implement an unequivocal policy in Lebanon. We have already said that if all these things happen we do not rule out the principle of withdrawal, but we did not say that we will withdraw from the entire Golan Heights.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, President al-Asad knows he will receive everything he wants from Israel. What is it that prevents him from opening negotiations and finishing the business?

[Peres] Look, the negotiations must be conducted cautiously and without any blabbering. I do not see any reason to go beyond what we said. Anything else would constitute an absurd situation wherein every minister says he is willing to proceed precisely at the time negotiations are being conducted by our negotiating team.

[Mish'al] This is precisely what is happening; every minister in the Israeli Government states his opinions and how far he is willing to go.

[Peres] I cannot tell you what every minister is going to do. I can only tell myself what to do, and I keep telling myself not to run ahead before the negotiations begin.

We really do believe that we have to reach an agreement with Syria. We need a comprehensive agreement because we must change the Middle East. I want to tell you two simple things concerning the Middle East. We need the Israeli public's standard of living to rise from a semi-European level to a full-fledged European level, namely from $12,000 a person annually to $18,000 annually at least by the end of this century. This will enable us to improve our education, health, and quality of life. As for the Arabs, they must climb from $1,000 annually to $3,000-$4,000. Raising the local populations' standard of living is the best guarantee to lowering the level of violence and danger.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, one final question. I noticed that throughout this interview you did not ask me to remember any date, not 3 November nor 4 December. Does this mean that you are not cooking up any dramatic move?

[Peres] I think that negotiations call both for dramatic and mundane moves, because it is a combination of both things. After a breakthrough you must let the dust settle and allow people's anger to subside.

[Mish'al] So is your next move in the works?

[Peres] Not only mine. I think, however, that basically all the solutions currently on the political table will remain in disuse. I think that all the solutions implemented so far and all the solutions to be implemented in future will be different from all the solutions that are being mentioned. What I am doing is searching for a creative solution to an extremely complicated situation.

[Mish'al] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

Draft Accord With Palestinians Said To Be Exchanged

TA0612103893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Israeli and PLO representatives will evidently meet in Cairo on 8 Dececember to exchange draft agreements on the implementation of the interim agreement in Gaza and Jericho First. The two sides are about to complete their documents. The Israeli version is a 100 pages and the Palestinian document is 50 pages. [passage omitted]

Defense and political sources who have read the Israeli draft said it reflects stands Israel had presented in past talks with the Palestinians, adding to new elements or formulas capable of resolving the disputed points. "This paper will not save the situation," they said.

Rabin yesterday told the cabinet that the Palestinians have some very qualified people assigned for the Palestinian police, "who can work with us in the best manner possible." He added, however, that funds needed to bring the policemen to the territories were unavailable as yet. The Palestine Liberation Army brigade which is supposed to man the self-government police is financed by the Egyptian and Jordanian Armies and has no independent budget.

[Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 6 December, Moti Bassok adds that addressing yesterday's cabinet meeting, Rabin said that "the Palestinians are in a financial dilemma, because countries which have pledged aid, are unwilling to give it to 'Arafat or any other pocket and are prepared to forward it for projects only. Since the Palestinians have no projects as yet, they have not received any funds from the United States, Japan, or the European countries."]

Wanted Hamas Activist Shot Dead Near Ramallah

TA0612143293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Ibrahim Yusuf al-'Aruri, on the list of wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, was killed near Ramallah this morning. He was suspected of involvement in the murder of Shalva Uzana and Yitzhaq Weinstock near al-Birah several days ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Border Police who were on special assignment spotted the wanted man and began pursuit, during which al-'Aruri was shot dead.

Arab Driver Killed by Settler; Ministers Comment

TA0512073993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Talal Rushdi al-Bakri, the taxi driver shot, presumably by settlers, in Hebron yesterday has died of his wounds in Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem hospital. Al-Bakri was 45-years-old and a resident of East Jerusalem. He was shot in the head and critically wounded and two of his passengers were also hurt. The settler, alleged to have opened fire, claimed the taxi had tried to run him down. Other settlers used force to prevent his arrest and during the scuffle with soldiers a border policeman was lightly injured. The suspect escaped but was arrested last night at his home in Qiryat Arba'. The man, Mandes Qeysar, denies involvement in the shooting, saying he does not even own a gun. Another settler accused of injuring the border policeman was also arrested. [passage omitted]

Police Commissioner Rafi Peled has appointed a special team to investigate the recent events in Hebron and more arrests are expected. In another incident, three settlers opened fire on a restaurant at al-Ram junction north of Jerusalem. No one was hurt in the shooting. They began shooting after the Egged bus they were travelling on was hit by stones. The restaurant was damaged. Qol Yisra'el's military reporter says military officials will demand that those responsible for the trouble in Hebron will not be released on bail as was common in the past, but held in custody until the end of the legal proceedings against them. The military officials expressed anger over the shooting by settlers and the clashes between Jewish residents and soldiers.

Meanwhile, Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni will bring up the issue of settler violence at this morning's cabinet meeting. She told reporter Amy Rhodes that the Army appears to be working with the settlers instead of trying to prevent their violence.

[Begin recording] [Aloni] What we have seen in the pictures is that the Army participates in what they are doing, and the police, unfortunately—the commissioner, the head of the police—instead of sticking against [as heard] this special, private, police,—militia—says that he is going to help them against the things said openly by the attorney general. This is something that cannot be bearable. Now, yesterday, everyone saw what happens, and the world saw what happens. And, if we will not bring an end to it we will stop to be a democracy.

[Rhodes] Minister Aloni, how do you propose bringing the settler violence to an end?

[Aloni] Well, if there is a government, and there is a police, and there is an Army, then it has to come to an end; and there are ways to do it. The question is whether the Army and the police are ready to do their job, and they have to be ready to do it by an order from the government.

[Rhodes] Has not the government ordered the Army and the police to use force against the settlers?

[Aloni] Well, I am afraid that the government has a double talk. [end recording]

Elsewhere in the territories, three Palestinians are reported to have been hit by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fire over the weekend. According to Palestinian sources, two Ramallah residents were wounded during rioting, and a 13-year-old boy in Gaza city was shot when soldiers broke up a demonstration.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 5 December carries a recorded passage with remarks by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq who says: "We are determined to rigorously uphold the law to the letter. The leaders of the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip know this. We are carrying out this policy on a daily basis. Whenever we see the law being broken we put a stop to the act, record the incident, and bring the violators to the police for investigation."

[Later on in the same newsreel, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el carries a live interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer who asserts that "the IDF must guarantee the security of all residents, both Jewish and Arab." Ben-Eli'ezer says that the weekend's incidents "indicate that the Jewish public has voted no-confidence in the

IDF, the police, and the Border police," warning that "this is leading toward Lebanonization." Ben-Eli'ezer says that "as a state, we must stop this development, and let there be no misunderstanding, we will put a stop to it because it is only going to lead to further bloodshed." The minister vows that "the government will adopt the harshest measures" to stop the violence. The minister believes that a situation "in which a handful of people have decided to use their weapons and fire indiscriminately at passersby, possibly also at Border policemen and tomorrow even IDF personnel has extremely severe ramifications. Tomorrow, this could happen in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or anywhere else in the country." In conclusion, Ben-Eli'ezer states that if the settlers have decided to take the law into their own hands, the government may decide to pull the IDF out of the area and let the settlers "handle things themselves."]

'Terrorist' Shot, Israeli Wounded Near Holon

TA0512092793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] A terrorist was shot and killed this morning at the Holon junction while attempting to board an Egged bus at a hitchhiking station. He was armed with a mini-Galil or Kalashnikov rifle.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the bus driver pushed at the terrorist with his hands and a soldier outside the bus shot and killed him. Witnesses told our correspondent that a volley of gunfire was directed at the bus and apparently shots were also fired from the bus itself. One of the passengers was mortally wounded and taken to the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

The no. 461 bus from Tel Aviv to Ramla, which was half full with passengers, mostly civilians, continued travelling eastwards rapidly and stopped at a Paz gas station several kilometers from the scene.

Witnesses added that the terrorist had been helped by an accomplice and that both men had arrived together at the junction in a Peugeot car. This report, however, has not been confirmed. Large police forces, aided by a helicopter, have launched a large manhunt in the area.

The Tzomet faction has called on the government to stop selling out Israel to the PLO at cut rate prices while abandoning the security of the Jewish population. Tzomet asserted that today's attempted terrorist attack at Holon junction merely constitutes more proof that the agreement of principles is not grounded in reality. The PLO has no control over its members and is permitting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to rampage unchecked. This was reported by our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 5 December reports that "the cabinet ministers were briefed on the attempted terrorist attack at Holon junction a short while ago. This was reported by our political correspondent Udi Segal. At the cabinet session, the ministers, including Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur and Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein criticized the security forces for not doing enough to prevent the settlers from rioting in the territories. Our correspondent reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he hoped that the settlers would not torpedo the negotiations with the Palestinians."]

Rabin, Shahal on Attack

TA0512193793 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report followed by interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Rivqa Neuman]

[Text] Commenting on the terrorist attack at the Holon junction in which an Israeli was seriously wounded and later died of his wounds, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the closure of the territories must be more strictly enforced. Replying to a question by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, Shahal said the orders banning entry to Arabs from the territories should be implemented more forcefully and the number of those allowed to enter should be reduced to the minimum possible because additional terrorist attacks within the Green Line are expected in the near future.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the rejectionist organizations may pursue their terror activities. Our correspondent Rivqa Neuman asked the prime minister to comment on this morning's attack.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] It was a serious attack. Initial reports show the man was an Islamic Jihad member. His brother apparently is one of the most prominent members of the organization in Damascus. Because of his record and our suspicions about him, the man was banned entry into Israel. Of course, we will have to check how he managed to get in, steal a vehicle, and carry out a ruthless murder.

I would like to send my condolences to the bereaved family and my deep appreciation to the two soldiers who took the initiative, opened fire, and killed this assassin, thus preventing a more serious outcome.

[Neuman] Will this attack affect the peace process?

[Rabin] We know that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and other Palestinian rejectionist organizations have been trying very hard to increase the attacks in anticipation of 13 December. The government's policy is to fight those who perpetrate such attacks and who are seeking to lower the Israeli public's support for the agreement and its implementation by murdering Israelis in the territories or in Israel. We will fight terror with all the means permitted by law, and we will go ahead with the negotiations for the implementation of the agreement of principles. [end recording]

Cabinet on Settler Riots, Holon Attack, Talks

TA0512122793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] At today's weekly cabinet session, the ministers called for an iron fist against the rioting settlers. The ministers used very strong language and demanded getting tough with the settlers, not in future, but at once. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Raz] We shall immediately hear the ministers express their views; however, it is important to recall the statements made by the attorney general at the cabinet session. To wit, the Council of Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is a seditious body. That was what the term used by Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir. At any rate, one of the toughest and most outspoken ministers against the settlers was Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, one of the cabinet hawks. He described the recent events as Jewish terrorism.

[Tzur] These extremist elements employed terrorism yesterday and murdered an Arab—there is no other way to put it. In other words, they seek to exploit tragic incidents in order to undermine the political process.

[Raz] Minister Shulamit Aloni's views on this issue are well known. She had something new to propose today, however. Aloni called on the government to help the settlers who want to leave the settlements and return to pre-1967 Israel.

[Aloni] I have received letters from people sent there by the government. They came there to build a house and establish a family. They do not want to be embroiled in the growing disquiet there and seek help. I consider it the government's obligation, as the party which sent them there, to help them leave if that is what they want.

[Raz] Minister Ya'ir Tzaban spoke of the need to publicly and practically delegitimize the rioting elements among the settlers.

[Tzaban] If we do not act now we will find it very difficult to stem the antidemocratic tide and eventually face much tougher situations in future.

[Raz] Minister Hayim Ramon told us of the arrests made among the settlers over the weekend. The minister said that they would be charged with murder and with being accessories to murder.

[Ramon] I propose that the attitude toward lawbreakers on the Jewish side be exactly the same as that to lawbreakers among the Arab population. To my regret, that is not the situation this moment. We need to organize to this effect; however, if the proceedings are conducted swiftly and equal measures taken, I have no doubt that within a short time that small minority among the settlers that violates the law will learn its lesson and either stop breaking the law or find itself behind lock and key.

[Raz] Almost all the ministers expressed themselves in a similar fashion with the exception of Minister Shim'on Shetrit, who was has a more varied position. Shetrit fears a lynch-mob atmosphere.

[Shetrit] The blurring of distinctions is not limited to journalists or to Meretz cabinet ministers and Knesset members. It is starting to trickle into the judicial system and this makes me worry.

[Raz] Shim'on Shetrit fears that no distinction will be drawn between the settlers in general and the radical element among them responsible for all the rioting. Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the ministers that the settler suspected of fatally shooting the Arab driver used racist language against the Druze border policeman who arrested him. We asked Minister Shahal what the police is doing now following the weekend's violent incidents?

[Shahal] We know who participated in the violence. We have evidence which in one instance already suffice to submit a recommendation which will be issued very shortly to the attorney general. The attorney general is already in the picture and I am meeting him on 7 December with regard to law enforcement. My opinion remains, as it was even before the agreement with the Palestinians was signed, that the police should be entrusted with handling riots. We need a strong police force which can enforce order on the spot. I think that the soldiers, which lack adequate training, find themselves a tough spot during such incidents.

[Raz] In short, the settlers' rioting and the murder they were involved in dominated today's cabinet session. During the meeting, the ministers were briefed on today's terrorist attack involving a bus in Holon. The cabinet praised the soldiers who killed the terrorist and prevented a massacre on the Egged bus.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 5 December reports that "Israel has formulated a 90-page document to summarize its detailed negotiations with PLO representatives on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. This was reported at today's cabinet session. Several ministers expressed concern that the abundance of details would preclude any possibility of concluding the negotiations before the target date eight days from now. The Israeli representatives to the talks have arrived in Cairo in order to resume the negotiations."]

'Terror' Incidents To Increase Before 13 Dec

TA0612072393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defense sources estimate that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and the Palestinian rejectionist organizations will spare no effort in their attempts to carry out terror attacks before 13 December. The sources believe that an escalation in terror activity is expected, and there is fear that terror squads from Gaza will attempt to carry out attacks inside Israel. The IDF command [Israel Defense Forces] ordered tighter inspections and higher alert at the Erez checkpoint.

Settlers Criticize Attorney General's Remarks

TA0512150993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip says Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir again made a slip of the tongue today when he said during the cabinet session that the Council of Jewish Settlements is a seditious body. The council's spokesman said that Attorney General Ben-Ya'ir acted under pressure coming from the direction of the ministers, without checking the facts.

Shahal Appoints Head of New Autonomy Command

TA0412072593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Police Assistant Commander Moshe Goldgart has been appointed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal to head up the new autonomy command. His rank will be raised to deputy commander.

Al-Majali Previews 'Arafat, Christopher Visits

JN0412141893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali emphasized the importance of activating and intensifying the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at this delicate stage, especially since the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles has entered the stage of implementation.

He added that the visit to Jordan by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, which will begin tomorrow, will provide a good opportunity for laying down the bases that will govern the nature of cooperation between Jordan and the transitional Palestinian government.

Answering a question on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour in the region and its impact on activating the peace process, the prime minister said: Giving a boost to the peace process necessitates breaking the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks, and providing the suitable atmosphere for the forthcoming round of talks, due to be held before the end of this year so 1993 will be the beginning of real peace, and so that the people of the region will reap the fruit of peace they have missed for over half a century.

He described the U.S. secretary of state's visit as important, saying it will contribute to reducing differences between the parties to the peace process, particularly since the U.S. interest to activate this process has become clear.

The prime minister said the talks with the U.S. secretary of state will deal with bilateral relations, the peace process on the Jordanian-Israeli track, agenda topics which have already been agreed upon, and the results of the tripartite committee, which comprises experts from Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

The prime minister emphasized that Jordan has been, and will continue to be for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that provides security for all, and that future generations can accept and protect.

'Arafat Said Ready To Finalize Economic Accord

JN0512095393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to arrive here Sunday [5 December] and possibly finalise a draft economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during his visit, senior officials said yesterday.

The officials said Jordan was informed by PLO officials that Chairman 'Arafat was ready to consider the protocol, which was drafted by Jordanian and PLO officials and sent to Tunis in late September.

Mr. 'Arafat arrives today for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due here tomorrow.

The PLO chairman will meet Mr. Christopher again in Tunis on Friday at the expected conclusion of the U.S. secretary's Middle East visit aimed at revitalising the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations and removing snags from the Israeli-PLO negotiations.

Mr. 'Arafat had been holding out against the economic protocol with Jordan hoping to wrench Israeli permission for a Palestinian central bank and currency during the interim five-year period envisaged under the Israel-PLO accord, PLO sources said.

"He also wanted to ensure that the (envisaged) Palestinian entity will not fall under the economic domination of any external party," said one PLO source.

But Jordanian officials said the draft document was very flexible and left the door open for the Palestinian authority to exercise its options based on the outcome of "final status" negotiations, including a Palestinian monetary body and Palestinian currency.

In the meantime, Jordan has to remain involved to a large extent in the Palestinian monetary affairs since the Jordanian dinar remains in circulation in the occupied territories.

In any event, the officials said, it was too premature for the Palestinians to set up their own central bank and issue their own currency because they lacked the basic "ingredients" to do so.

"It is easy to print and issue currency," said a senior official. "But how are they (the Palestinians) going to provide a monetary base for the currency and to defend the currency as legal tender?"

Among other things, including trade relations and flow of goods between Jordan and the occupied territories, the draft protocol on economic cooperation calls for Jordanian control of the banking and monetary affairs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the continued circulation there of the Jordanian dinar during the interim period.

Mr. 'Arafat's new approach to the draft accord came after several rounds of economic talks with Israel in Paris, when "it become clear that Israel will not allow the setting up of a Palestinian central bank during the interim period," said a diplomatic source.

Prime Minister Abd al-Salam al-Majali alluded to the pending accord with the PLO when he Saturday emphasised the importance of stepped up Jordanian-Palestinian coordination "at this critical stage."

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. al- Majali said that such coordination was important, especially that the Palestinian-Israeli accord is entering its implementation stage.

"President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan will no doubt provide a good opportunity to lay the foundation for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship during the upcoming Palestinian transitionary period," Dr. al-Majali told Petra.

Under the Sept. 13 accord, Israel is expected to begin a four-month military withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13, but doubts have been cast whether this deadline could be met since the Israel-PLO negotiations on implementation of the accord have run into snags.

"We have been informed that Mr. 'Arafat wants to sign the accord, and we hope the document will indeed be signed during his visit this week," said a senior official.

The official noted that Jordan and Israel had signed a memorandum of understanding on reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied West Bank under Central Bank of Jordna (CBJ) supervision and control.

The actual implementation of the memorandum, which the Cabinet reviewed Saturday, largely depends on coordination with the PLO through the envisaged protocol on economic cooperation.

The official said Jordan and Israel would have to negotiate another memo of understanding to allow Jordanian banks to open branches in the Gaza Strip since, in principle, Jordan did not have direct control of banking in the strip prior to 1967.

All banks in the Gaza Strip were guided and supervised by Egypt, which controlled the area until Israel occupied it in the 1967 war, and Egyptian banking rules were the only regulations applicable to the banks regardless of their ownership.

The Jordan-PLO draft accord refers to the occupied territories in their entirety without distinguishing between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said.

The memorandum of understanding reached with Israel "refers to the Gaza Strip, but legally we need to negotiate a separate accord," said the senior official. "But we don't expect any major problems; an agreement could be reached soon."

According to an official quoted by REUTERS, the memo of understanding provides for the conversion of all foreign currency entering the occupied territories to be converted into Jordanian dinars, not Israeli shekels as Israel had insisted in the negotiations that led to the accord.

The official was quoted as saying that the accord gives CBJ total responsibility for inspection and control of all branches of Jordanian commercial banks closed in 1967 and control of credit.

"Israel will have a very small role," the official told the agency. "It will mainly receive regular reports from these banks on their operations, exactly like the reports of foreign banks operating in Jordan routinely send to Jordan's Central Bank."

'Arafat Arrives in Amman on Working Visit

Christopher Meeting Said 'Likely'

JN0512184393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman tonight on a working visit to Jordan. During this visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and top Jordanian officials on current and future bilateral relations, including economic relations, as well as many other issues that must be discussed within the framework of future relations between Jordan and the PLO.

A Palestinian source here in Amman said that His Majesty King Husayn's talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will be of great importance, especially since they will be held before the U.S. Secretary of State's arrival in Amman tomorrow. The U.S. Secretary of State is also likely to meet with 'Arafat in Amman.

Husayn, 'Arafat Discuss Ties, Talks

JN0512210293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] His majesty the king received Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat who arrived in Amman tonight. The meeting, which started about an hour ago, was expected to center on bilateral ties and the latest developments in the talks between the PLO and Israel on a planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho by December 13th.

The meeting at the Guest Palace in Amman was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

President 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight and was received by Deputy Prime Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan. The Palestinian president said his talks in Amman will focus on developing the distinguished relations with Jordan. He told JTV [Jordan Television] political correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab that the talks with his majesty the king would be very important. He also said he expects to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Amman tomorrow afternoon. The talks are expected to center on ways to avoid the deadlock in negotiations on an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

King, 'Arafat Stress Coordination

JN0612070293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at al-Hashimiyah Palace last night with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

His majesty and Mr. 'Arafat reviewed Arab and international issues of mutual respect [as heard] and the development of the peace process. They stressed the importance of consultations and coordination for the service of the Arab and Palestinian issues, especially in the current circumstances facing the peace process in the area.

'Pressure' on 'Arafat To Accept Delay

JN0612090393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat met here yesterday for talks on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and relations ahead of a meeting today between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The focus of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, was "the latest developments in the peace process and the future relations between Jordan and the PLO within the context of comprehensive Arab coordination based on Israeli implementation of international resolutions and the achievement of peace which ensures the return of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, to the Arabs."

Mr. 'Arafat, who arrived aboard an Air Algeria plane, was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu-Nowar and Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan as well as other officials.

No details were immediately available from the King's talks with Mr. 'Arafat, but it was expected that a draft Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement figured high in their discussions.

Mr. 'Arafat's arrival here was preceded by a report that the PLO chairman was ready to accept a two-week delay of the Dec. 13 beginning of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy agreement.

Sources close to Mr. 'Arafat said the PLO was under strong pressure to accept such a delay, but that no formal decision was taken.

They said Mr. 'Arafat was resisting the pressure, but might accept a delay if Israel undertook to resolve some of the key snags holding up agreement in the ongoing Israel-PLO negotiations.

" 'Arafat does not prefer a delay and will resist it," one PLO official said. "But a postponement for a limited time could be acceptable if major problems are addressed."

The key obstacles include the release of Palestinian prisoners, control over crossing points and the size of the Jericho area that will come under Palestinian self-rule.

PLO officials said that Mr. 'Arafat would also insist on at least a beginning of a partial withdrawal from the Gaza Strip on Dec. 13 as a prerequisite to defuse the rising tensions following the Israeli crackdown on the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) as well as with his own Fatah group.

" 'Arafat cannot afford to allow Dec. 13 to pass just like any other date. This will jeopardise the credibility and the constituency of the peace process in the occupied territories," said a Fatah official.

According to well-informed Palestinian sources a possible scenario to break the current impasse is to arrange for a meeting between Mr. 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Dec. 12 to solve some of the sticking points.

An arrangement on the release of a big number of Palestinian prisoners and an Israeli commitment to complete its troops pullout by April 13, as agreed in the Sept. 13 accord could help break the deadlock and enable Mr. 'Arafat to accept the Israeli-suggested delay.

Mr. 'Arafat was expected to ask Mr. Christopher to pressure Israel to abide by the accord.

The Palestinian leader was planning to put forward conditions to resume negotiations with Israel that involve Israeli confidence-building measures and Palestinian control over the crossing points.

But according to well-informed sources, the PLO has already been notified, through American and other channels, that Mr. Christopher was likely to support the Israeli demands to maintain control over the crossing points—at least between Jordan and the West Bank during the self-rule interim period, since the border areas would still be under Israeli command.

Mr. 'Arafat's visit to Jordan is viewed as extremely crucial to improving coordination between the two sides that has gravely suffered since the PLO signed its secret agreement with Israel without consulting with Jordan, which was at the time its partner in a joint delegation.

Over the last two months PLO and Jordanian officials have been working on a draft economic agreement mainly covering monetary policies to regulate relations between Jordan and the future Palestinian entity.

The last draft agreement was reached last month after both Mr. 'Arafat and Jordanian officials introduced modifications on an initial draft of basic ideas worked out by the head of the economic department and the PLO chief negotiator in Oslo, Ahmad Quray', and Jawad al-'Anani, then minister of state.

According to PLO officials, neither the PLO Executive Committee nor Mr. 'Arafat has formally ratified the agreement.

The PLO leader is said to be reluctant to bind himself to any final agreement with Jordan prior to clarifying the shape of the Palestinian autonomy.

He has been criticised by some of his colleagues for not entering an agreement with Jordan to boost Palestinian efforts to disengage the Palestinian economy from Israeli domination.

But he is said to be concerned that an agreement with Jordan could be used by the Israelis to limit Palestinian prospects for a future total sovereignty.

"The PLO should not be worried about that," said one Jordanian official. "The principles in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement leaves the door open for different scenarios for the future bilateral relationship and it does not bloc Palestinian sovereignty."

Mr. 'Arafat has come under considerable pressure from his colleagues and the Palesinian business community to reactivate close coordination with Jordan.

He was specifically criticised for drawing closer to Egypt and giving priority to his agreement with Israel at the expense of Jordan.

Some of 'Arafat's aides refuse this criticism saying that Mr. 'Arafat has to ensure Israel's unequivocal recognition of the Palestinians as sovereign entity before binding himself with any agreement that could be exploited by Israel to evade Palestinian independence.

According to the draft economic agreemnt, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will regulate the monetary policies while the Jordanian dinar will be the official currency.

The agreement also involves raising the trade exchange to a minimum of $300 million in the first year—after the inauguration of Palestinian self-rule—and setting up a joint free zone in the Jordan Valley area.

In a memorandum submitted to Mr. 'Arafat, a number of leading Palestinian investors urged the PLO Chairman to take practical steps to consolidate economic cooperation with Arab countries, particularly Jordan, to prevent continued Israeli control of the Palestinian economy.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Arrives

Talks Set With King, Crown Prince

JN0612101893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

He will hold talks on the peace process developments and bilateral relations. His Majesty King Husayn and Christopher will hold a joint news conference at the end of the talks.

Christopher was received on arrival at the airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the capital's governor and commander of police; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; and a number of ranking officials.

Further on King's Meeting

JN0612161293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today held a closed meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Royal Hashemite Court, in the presence of Crown Prince Hasan. The meeting was followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of officials from both sides.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on various regional and international issues, especially the peace process and the recent developments in it. The two sides stressed their concern about securing the success of the efforts exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region which requires joint efforts and the discussion of all means to support the peace process until its goals are achieved. They also discussed bilateral relations and means to develop these relations in various fields, especially in the economic area.

King, Christopher Hold News Conference

JN0612145793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has described his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as good and frank, as always. He noted that the talks were permeated with a spirit of a partnership that seeks to do something for a better future for all the peoples of the region.

In a joint news conference he held with Christopher at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, his majesty said that he is doing his best to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, a peace that will change everything and will be an inheritance for future generations. His Majesty King Husayn said that during his talks with Christopher, he stressed the need to seriously continue efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

For his part, Christopher said that his talks with His Majesty King Husayn were good and focused mainly on the peace process. He added that he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the U.S. President Bill Clinton's desire to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region, noting that progress has been made in this regard.

Paper Hopes for Break in Stalemate

JN0512085293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Will Christopher Succeed in Breaking the Stalemate in Peace Negotiations"]

[Text] We hope that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher will succeed in breaking the stalemate in peace negotiations, in overcoming differences between the negotiating parties, and activating the peace process.

We also hope that the U.S. secretary will succeed in convincing Israel to abandon its intransigence and maneuvers, and to accept withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, Gaza, Jericho, and all occupied Jordanian and Arab territories in compliance with the terms of reference of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy. Jordan emphasizes the importance of efforts aimed to realize comprehensive settlement on all tracks, and hopes that Christopher will make serious efforts toward this objective.

But it seems that the U.S. secretary's visit to Israel and his talks with Rabin's government were not encouraging, and this has led the U.S. Administration to reconsider its calculations and its Middle East policy, and probably change this policy after Christopher's tour of the region.

Probably, the U.S. Administration became desperate in its attempts to convince Israel of the need to abide by the terms of reference of the peace process and not to waste the available peace opportunity.

In any case, the U.S. secretary will visit Syria and Jordan, and will meet with the Palestinian leadership. Therefore, bolstering coordination among the cordon states is in the interest of all parties. Therefore, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali emphasized Jordan's readiness to bolster coordination with the Palestinians and the cordon states, since Jordan, as His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly stressed, is committed to a comprehensive solution on all tracks. Jordan also rejects dividing the peace process or forging separate agreements.

What is important is that the U.S. secretary brings new proposals and ideas to break the stalemate in negotiations on all tracks and to convince Israel not to place further obstacles on the road to peace and of the need to abide by the terms of reference of the negotiations in order to attain just and comprehensive peace in the region.

We hope the U.S. Administration's threat of a possible change in its Middle East policy after Christopher's tour is not directed at the Arab parties.

Christopher's Regional Tour Viewed

JN0312104093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Christopher's New Tour"]

[Text] After a long standstill and further retreat and idleness in the region's conditions, Warren Christopher now returns to the Middle East to start a new tour, which is expected to take him to a number of capitals. Christopher will try to activate the peace efforts and bring closer the viewpoints of the various parties to the conflict, in preparation for resuming the Arab-Israeli talks which have been suspended for some four months now.

We do not know yet if the U.S. secretary of state will this time return to the Middle East with new suggestions to break the current deadlock, which can be seen not only on the stumbling Syrian-Israeli track, but also on the other tracks of negotiations, including the Palestinian-Israeli track, which apparently needs a new boost.

Undoubtedly, the recent decline in the Middle East's position on the list of U.S. priorities, particularly after the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was reached, has contributed to the stumbling in the peace process. It even contributed to the halt in the bilateral negotiations, which provided a mechanism acceptable to all parties in the conflict and to all sides concerned with the Middle East crisis.

Obviously, Israel has taken great advantage of this decline in the U.S. interest in the regional conflict. It began to toughen its conditions—and it even added new conditions—to fulfill its obligations as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. It also turned its back to the two tracks of negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, in such a way that suggests that Rabin's government is confident there will be no international pressures to resume the peace process.

In light of this, we hope that Warren Christopher's return to the Middle East will mark a new move in the U.S. efforts to resume the peace process within the framework of the declared U.S. commitment to play the full partner role in this process. We also hope that this tour will make Israel abandon its growing intransigence, not only on the various tracks of negotiations that have not made any progress, but also on the Palestinian track, which now faces obstacles that threaten to undermine the available chances for peace.

Column Questions 'Friendship' With U.S.

JN0612120593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 28

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Jordan and the United States and the So-So Relations"]

[Text] We in Jordan are not a "problem" or "obstacle" to peace. Therefore, we can best understand U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit as a chance to address outstanding U.S.-Jordanian issues. Our citizens, who are well versed in international relations, have failed to understand the nature of U.S.-Jordanian relations. They are not true friendly relations, like Washington's relations with its friends in the region; nor can we characterize them as hostile relations, like Washington's hostile relations with many countries in our region.

This so-so situation could have meanings in the dictionary of international relations of which we are unaware. To be tactful, we might call them disorderly U.S.-Jordanian relations. To be less tactful, we think that

Washington considers our country a "low wall," [a weak nation, open to violation] to use peasant jargon. Washington is willing to please its friends at the expense of Jordan, and is willing to leave Jordan in the lurch if things get complicated in the region. Washington is also prepared to watch Jordan bleed at the hands of its "friends".

So as not to go too far in theoretical discussion, we will give only three examples to the high-level visitor, even though there are thousands:

1. What immediately comes to mind is President Clinton's promise to "reduce Jordan's foreign debt burden." This promise has remained mere words, even though Jordan is scheduled to hold talks with the Paris Club at the beginning of next year. The United States has not written off one cent of its $994 million debt, to encourage others to follow suit, even though the United States annually writes off the debt of its friends. Does President Clinton's promise mean he will only reschedule Jordanian debt? What is the meaning of "reducing the burden" then?

2. The second thing is the U.S.—and not the UN—siege of the Gulf of 'Aqabah. During his first tour, the U.S. secretary of state pledged to look seriously into this grave question that harms Jordan's sovereignty and the bread of its citizens. Dennis Ross then came to the region and made the same promise during the meeting of the joint committee. But nothing has happened. We want to ask: Has the United Nations decided to besiege Jordan? Are there U.S. vessels off the coasts of Izmir, Iskenderun, and Bandar 'Abbas? Are the Turkish and Iranian borders with Iraq not longer than our border? Is Turkish and Iranian trade with Iraq not larger than ours?

3. Do we talk about the al-Wahdah Dam and about opposition to its financing by international creditor institutions because "Israel" does not approve of the project?

Why does Washington not need our approval or that of Syria or Lebanon to secure loans for Israel for water projects, even though it knows the water is stolen?

The guest minister will often hear the word "friendship" here in Amman, but ordinary people do not think the United States is a friend.

Criticism of Clinton-Rushdie Meeting Urged

JN0612135393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 24

["Orbits" column by Dr. Samir Qatami: "Between Salman Rushdie and Fred Lokhter [name as published]"]

[Text] I ran out of patience waiting for a statement by an Arab or Islamic official (except for Iran) protesting, in his own name or on behalf of his country, to U.S. President Clinton and his Administration over their reception of Salman Rushdie, author of the *Satanic Verses*, as this reception disregards the feelings of a billion Muslims.

I waited for a long time in the hope of hearing a protest by a religious body or an Islamic league. After waiting for far too long, a bashful statement rife with rhetoric was finally issued by the League of the Islamic World. The statement did not dare call a spade a spade. Nor did it dare mention President Clinton or America. It was full of generalities, denouncing the reception of several world leaders of renegade Salman Rushdie, in view of the offense done to all Islamic nations.

Instead of criticizing those who make Salman Rushdie an important person, the above statement lashed out at Salman Rushdie himself. It used heavy rhetoric to beg world leaders not to receive Salman Rushdie, since this would encourage him to spread more lies and fabrications against Islam. This would also encourage other rancorous enemies of Islam to follow his suit. And enough is God for the believers in their fight. [part of Koranic verse]

Apparently, U.S. President Clinton got the message. He went public and announced that he did not heed the advice of some of his advisers not to receive Rushdie to show respect for the feelings of Muslims. Clinton also said he asked Vice President Al Gore to receive Rushdie, and that he insisted on this out of his respect for human rights and freedom of expression. Is this really what President Clinton meant by his insistence on receiving Salman Rushdie? What freedom of expression does a madman like Salman Rushdie represent? In the name of this freedom of expression, Salman Rushdie is being received by presidents, ministers, universities, and institutes; he is now an important issue at the United Nations and the Security Council, through which you are blackmailing the Islamic world, at a time when you disregard the suppression, terrorism, and destruction practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people's existence and identity; and you are also committing the ugliest human crime against culture, heritage, history, expression, intellect, and man in Iraq. Can anyone believe you after all of this?

If the U.S. President is so concerned about freedom of expression and one's right to express his convictions without any fear, then why did he not defend his compatriot, Engineer Fred Lokhter, who was arrested and put on trial by Germany, because he cast doubt, in a lecture he delivered, about the credibility of the gas chambers during World War II and Hitler's burning of millions of Jews inside these chambers, as they claim. Lokhter, an engineer specializing in the design of gas chambers for U.S. prisons, proved after a long fact-finding mission in the German Auschwitz Camp, that these camps had no gas chambers and that the Nazis did not have the technology that enabled them to kill millions of Jews in gas chambers.

The U.S. engineer neither offended other people nor threatened the security of other nations. All he did was

that he searched for the truth and made it public when he found it. He was jailed and expelled from Germany after paying a fine or bail of $12,000. What happened to your defense of human rights and freedom of expression, Mr. President?

Salman Rushdie hallucinates, and the doors of glory are opened to him; Fred Lokhter reveals facts substantiated by evidence, and he is jailed, tried, and expelled. Muslim leaders are watching this tragedy and can only say "we commit all our affairs to God."

Shipping Official on Interception of Ships

JN2511125393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Nov 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The international naval force patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the U.N. sanctions against Iraq diverted two ships away from al-'Aqabah this month in what a shipping official described as a surprising and shocking incident.

"We were and still are hopeful that Jordan's complaints that it is suffering serious losses from the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions will be heard and addressed," said Sufyan al-Muhaysin, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association.

Mr. al-Muhaysin said the latest ship to be boarded and intercepted by an American frigate, No: 997, of the international force was Kota Virawan, which was carrying 350 containers of general cargo from Europe bound for the Jordanian market.

Inspectors from the frigate, which was boarded on Nov. 15 at the Tiran Straits, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, found it "dangerous" for them to inspect the cargo since containers were stacked three-high on deck and ruled that they could not allow the ship to proceed, Mr. al-Muhaysin said.

Subsequently, the vessel turned back and docked at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, where the containers were "shifted" to suit the demands of the inspectors. It returned to the Tiran on Nov. 19 and was allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah after inspection, Mr. Muhaysin said.

"What was surprising and shocking of the incident was the fact that we are used to having ships stacking containers three, four and even five high on deck and allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah," said Mr. al-Muhaysin, noting that shipping agents were familiar with the guidelines set up by the inspectors.

In the earlier interception this month, a ship carrying South American cargo for Jordan was denied permission to proceed to al-'Aqabah by the inspectors who cited "cargo inaccessibility" for inspection, Mr. al-Muhyasin said.

That vessel was also allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah and it rearranged its cargo for inspection.

Such interceptions and delays had declined in the past months, but "it seems that whenever American frigates shift duties, the newcomers adopt their own guidelines for inspections, and this is causing problems," Mr. al-Muhaysin said. (Perhaps that also explains why Eilat-bound ships are also itnercepted, raising hues and cries among Israelis, who, for all practical purposes, are expected to be among the last to bust the sanctions against Iraq).

Since the U.N. Security Council imposed the trade embargo against Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the international enforcers have boarded more than 7,000 ships and diverted more than 500 ships.

In many cases, the cargo was bound for the Jordanian market, but that did not dissuade the inspectors from imposing their own conditions before allowing the vessels to proceed or refusing permission to enter the Gulf of Aqaba altogether.

According to Mr. al-Muhaysin, the diversion of Kota Virwan incurred an additional cost of up to $100,000.

Even without the extra costs caused by diversions, freight charges are higher for al-'Aqabah since shipowners and charterers have to take into consideration the restrictions on cargo space availability imposed by the inspection guidelines.

In most cases, costs incurred by diversions—including trans-shipment charges—are shifted to the importer, making the consignment more expensive than originally envisaged. In turn the importer charges wholesalers with an extra mark-up and the consumer pays the cost down the line. To a large extent, importers say, this explains the relatively higher prices in the market for some of the products at times.

Mr. al-Muhaysin said the Shipping Agents Association had held a meeting with a visiting American delegation in September and presented the problems faced by Jordanian shipping agents and importers as a result of the strict inspection procedures.

The American team was also received by senior Jordanian officials and subsequent reports indicated that a report drafted by the delegation was expected to take into consideration the Jordanian problems with a view to working out "better inspection guideline" in coordination with the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. Envoy Must Tell 'Truth' on Blockade

JN0512131493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 93 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" by Fahd al-Fanik: "Blockade on al-'Aqabah Only Hurts Jordan]

[Text] Notwithstanding the fact that the American administration took some time before nominating its new ambassador to Jordan—an important player in

Middle Eastern affairs—I believe Wesley W. Egan Jr., who assumes his post under difficult circumstances, will face up to the challenges of different sorts that characterise the climate of political change of the area.

We know very little about the new American ambassador, but we sincerely hope that he will be an ambassador of goodwill, of friendship and understanding and that he will have the capacity to respect the feelings of this Jordanian Arab people, care about its interests and aspirations and furnish his government with constructive reports that extend the bridges of cooperation not knock them down.

Perhaps the first report the new ambassador is called upon to write to the State Department is about the American blockade against al-'Aqabah. This blockade outlived its useful justification and should be called off without further delay, not only as a new start and a signal of good intentions, but also because it is meaningless as far as the economic sanctions against the Iraqi people are concerned. The impact of the blockade is simply to hurt Jordan and cause huge losses to the Jordanian economy with no compensation whatsoever.

The continued blockade imposed on al-'Aqabah has only one meaning: that the American government does not trust the Jordanian government's pledge to abide by the Security Council resolutions. The assumption is that if Jordan is left alone, its government will either encourage illegal trade with Iraq or, at least, turn a blind eye, on those who violate the sanctions.

It is rather common knowledge that Jordan is practically the only state among the countries surrounding Iraq that adheres to the sanctions to the letter. The sanctions are completely ignored by the authorities in Syria, Turkey and Iran—Iraq can therefore buy anything if it can come up with the dollar to pay. No wonder that those with vested interests in Iraq left Jordan long time ago and set their businesses in Turkey.

Yet, for the sake of argument, we shall assume that the Jordanian government does not deserve to be trusted by America, and that the Jordanian government does not do anything to prevent smuggling, and ask: in that case what is the use of blockading al-'Aqabah if a major part of Jordanian imports comes through Lebanon, Syria or Turkey and is not subject to American inspection?

The sanction-busters do not need to be geniuses to avoid al-'Aqabah and shift their trade to Turkish, Syrian and Lebanese ports where the American Sixth Fleet is not involved in intercepting ships and inspecting containers. Moreover, the imports to Jordan from ports other than al-'Aqabah are tempting on their own, even without the blockade and perhaps even more so because of the blockade. The government of Jordan is in the process of imposing fines to convince importers to use al-'Aqabah. Only legitimate imports to Jordan do suffer from the American blockade.

The new American ambassador could tell his government the simple truth: The American blockade is hurting the Jordanian economy and damaging the American image in Jordan, but has no effect whatsoever on Iraq.

Officials Comment on Christopher Tour of Region

Foreign Minister Previews Visit

NC0312182493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has informed Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev that Lebanon's participation in the administrative meeting of the multilateral talks awaits essential and tangible progress in a declaration of clear and frank principles. He affirmed on the sidelines of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region that Lebanon is the only one capable of presenting its case because it is a major party to the conflict in the Middle East.

In a press seminar, Buwayz described Christopher's visit as one to get things moving. He believes that the amount of time dedicated to this visit shows that there is a serious attempt to make progress in the negotiations. However, he also expressed skepticism that a declaration of principles can be realized before the end of the current year. Minister Buwayz met with the Russian ambassador and U.S. Charge d'Affairs in Lebanon Vincent Battle.

Russian Ambassador Ilichev affirmed that the next round of peace negotiations will take place before the end of the year. He pointed to his government's stand, which supports a comprehensive solution in the Middle East. He denied that the negotiations are frozen and affirmed that diplomatic activity on all tracks continues.

Further on Buwayz Comments

NC0312213493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has met with Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle. Ilichev said the [Arab-Israeli] peace talks have not been frozen.

Meanwhile, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins his tour of the region, the question whether the U.S. official will visit Lebanon reemerges. Our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan asked Foreign Minister Buwayz about this.

[Begin recording] [Fulayhan] Will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visit Lebanon at the beginning of next week as part of the tour he began today, or not? As usual, there is strong reticence at the Bustrus Palace [the Foreign Ministry] when a U.S. secretary of state comes to the region and to Lebanon, as happened during former Secretary of State James Baker's visit and when current Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited al-Yarzah [the Defense Ministry] the first time and Hawsh al-Umara the second time.

Foreign Minister Buwayz held a lengthy meeting with U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Vincent Battle this afternoon and perhaps he might have discussed this visit with him. We tried to learn about this from Minister Buwayz.

Mr. Minister, do you still hold the same position, of not meeting the U.S. secretary of state outside Lebanon or [word indistinct] receive him at B'abda?

[Buwayz] As yet we have not received any information about Secretary Christopher's visit.

[Fulayhan] Is it conceivable that he will come to the region and not visit Lebanon? Do you agree with this?

[Buwayz] Naturally, we believe that Lebanon is the one who should put forth his case and that Lebanon is a fundamental component of this conflict in the Middle East. We also believe that Lebanon has something to say and hear. Therefore, we believe that the Lebanese authorities are the ones authorized to discuss the regional conflict with any party, and they should do so.

[Fulayhan] And therefore, he should come so that we can tell him...]

[Buwayz, interrupting] I believe my words are clear.

[Fulayhan] Apparently, Minister Buwayz did not confirm or deny that Christopher would come to Lebanon. It seems the new U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley will come to Lebanon soon amid the usual secretive security measures. [end recording]

Minister Expects 'Nothing New'

NC0512180093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Minister of State 'Ali 'Usayran has declared that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional visit will bring nothing new. He ruled out the prospect of holding a Syrian-U.S. summit soon.

At a meeting with reporters at his home in al-Rumaylah today, Minister 'Usayran remarked: Israel will not comply with any U.S. request and this prevents us from pinning any hopes on Secretary Christopher's tour, particularly as the Americans have abandoned the Madrid conference framework and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat has surrendered and given Israel what it had failed to obtain since 1947.

'Usayran continued: The Americans are now saying that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin wants peace but he has a weak position because of Israeli public opinion. This means that the peace should be as Rabin wants it. If a U.S.-Syrian summit is held and Presidents al-Asad and Clinton reach agreement, then Syria and Lebanon have nothing to concede. [sentence as heard] We are demanding the restoration of our usurped rights and our occupied territory while safeguarding our sovereignty. A summit meeting will bring no progress or benefits unless the United States acts decisively and imposes on Israel a concept of a just and comprehensive peace that is primarily based on the restoration of occupied territory. The Americans are demanding that we terminate our

economic boycott of Israel, but it is impossible to do this while our territory remains occupied.

Minister 'Usayran pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is in difficulty and faces a real crisis because of erroneous policies. He noted that Israeli repression in the occupied Arab territories is on the rise and Israeli assaults against our people in the south continue.

'Usayran said: Hence we still have the legitimate right to resist Israeli occupation. We must seek to buttress the homeland and help our people to remain steadfast in all spheres so that they can continue defending their land and dignity and confront the occupier.

Officials Keeping 'Close Watch'

NC0512120793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Official Lebanon is keeping a close watch on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour. Lebanese officials may have an even busier time if Christopher visits Lebanon. Well-informed sources in Washington have said that Christopher will visit Lebanon during his Middle East tour.

It is worth noting that the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Mark Hambley, left for Beirut ahead of Christopher's tour and after a news conference in Washington during which he spoke about Lebanon.

Political quarters have expressed hope that at this critical stage domestic issues, however urgent, will be set aside, at least for the duration of Christopher's tour, so that officials may turn their attention to current developments, which are full of possibilities and premonitions both for Lebanon and the entire region.

Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held consultations with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last night, before Christopher arrived there.

This morning, Speaker Nabih Birri visited Prime Minister al-Hariri at his house.

Fadlallah Assails U.S. Official's Visit

LD0312185293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] During today's Friday prayers held in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the prominent Lebanese scholar, Sayyid Muhammad Fadlallah, referred to the visit of the U.S. deputy war minister [title as received] to Egypt, occupied Palestine, and other countries that rely on America and said: The aim of the visit is to set up a united front with the participation and cooperation of Arab countries to suppress Islamic movements, which they described as the threat of religious extremism.

He added: The aim of the deputy U.S. war minister also focuses on discussions about plans on how to confront the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic government in Sudan, as well as the movements that are standing against the Zionist regime. Because from America's point of view, anyone who moves against the U.S. and Israeli policies is called an extremist.

'Palestine's Hizballah' Claims Iranian Hostages Alive

LD0412151693 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 4, IRNA—The leader of Palestine's Hizballah announced that the Iranian hostages kidnapped in 1982 in Lebanon were still alive. Ahmad Hani Mahna [name as received] known as 'Abu-Hasan' said in an interview that contrary to rumors, the Iranian hostages have not been killed. The Zionist regime will likely enter the deal for exchange of Iranian hostages with Israeli captives in future, Abu-Hasan added.

The three Iranian diplomats, Ahmad Motavasselian, Mohsen Musavi and Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, as well as IRNA photographer Kazem Akhavan Allaf were taken captive on the road to Beirut by Phalangist forces on July 5, 1982. Abu-Hasan said that the hostages have been transferred to a region north of Israel, but he did not comment explicitly on the fate of IRNA photographer.

Joint Israeli-SLA Force Advances

NC0512094693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying over al-Nabatiyah at 1000 today.

Security reports received from the south said that the Israeli occupation forces shelled the hills of Kawkaba inside the occupied border strip at 0900. The shelling also spread to Jabal al-Dahr, al-Dallafah, the al-Surayri hills, the al-Qatranah forest, Jabal Abu-Rashid, and Birkat Jabbur. About 20 155-mm shells fell on these areas.

At approximately the same time, Israeli helicopters flew over the al-'Urqub area, Tallat Shab'a, and the Hasbayya area for 30 minutes.

At 0800 today, a border militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] force raked the sides along the main roads between al-Khiyam and Jisr al-Hasbani. An Israeli force executed a similar action between Marj 'Uyun and the Burghuz junction, up to the Kawkaba hills.

At 0700 today, a joint Israeli-SLA force advanced north of Shab'a town, parallel to Mount Hermon, using large- and medium-caliber machine guns. The force advanced toward the areas of Jub'um, al- Baq'ah, and the northern hills of Shab'a.

Christopher Arrives, Holds Talks With Leaders

Begins Talks With al-Shar'

JN0512113693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the American side led by Secretary of State Warren Christopher began at the Foreign Ministry at 1230 today.

Mr. Christopher and his delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Following his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning, Mr. Christopher said he hoped to reactivate the stumbling peace talks between Syria and Israel. He told reporters: I do not want to raise illogical expectations. During my visit to Damascus today, I will hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and I hope this will be an opportunity to invigorate talks between Syria and Israel. The U.S. secretary said he will return to occupied Jerusalem following his visit to Syria and Jordan in order to brief Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the results of his talks.

Following his meeting with Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said he agrees with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the negotiations with the PLO should be concluded before devoting efforts to negotiations on the other tracks. Peres said it is essential to reach agreement with Jordan as early as possible.

Calls Talks 'Successful'

JN0512163193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, a round of talks was held between the Syrian and American sides, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The talks were joined by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; al-Shar's assistant Yusuf Shakkur; Dr. Muhammad Zakariya Isma'il, deputy chief of the negotiating team; Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington; and Dr. Najdi al-Jazzar, the chief of the U.S. desk. For the American side, the talks were attended by Dennis Ross, the special Middle East coordinator; Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; and Martin Indyk, President Clinton's special adviser and the head of the Middle East and South Asia Department at the National Security Council; Thomas E. Donilon, assistant secretary of state for public affairs; and Sam Lewis, director of political planning at the American State Department.

The talks addressed the situation in the region and the various aspects of the peace process, with both the Syrian and American sides expressing their commitment to the realization of a just and comprehensive peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Christopher said he appreciated the centrality of Syria's role in the attainment of a comprehensive peace in the region. He also declared that his country was determined to pursue its efforts toward the realization of tangible progress on all tracks of the peace process. Christohper reiterated a U.S. wish for improved relations with Syria.

Al-Shar' voiced Syria's appreciation for efforts exerted by the United States as an honest broker to promote a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to the Syrian News Agency, SANA, following the meeting, Mr. Christopher characterized his talks with Mr. al-Shar' as successful.

Delivers Clinton Message to al-Asad

JN0512211893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] At 1700 [1500 GMT] today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross, the overall U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Christopher conveyed to President al-Asad a message from President Bill Clinton in which he stresses his interest in the peace process and the United States' continued efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The message also says the United States will continue its endeavors to achieve that goal. The conferees discussed the best ways to boost the peace process. Mr. Christopher emphasized the United States' commitment to the achievement of peace in the region.

During the meeting, some ideas on energizing the peace process on all tracks were discussed.

The president welcomed the United States' efforts to activate the peace process and its commitment to the goal of the just and comprehensive peace. The president stressed Syria's firm commitment to reaching that goal and its desire to continue to cooperate with the United States to help the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks achieve its goal.

Christopher Leaves Damascus 6 Dec

JN0612092893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation left Damascus at 1015 today at the end of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

'Optimism' Before Christopher Arrival Noted

PM0312163593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Sulayman Nimr report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-HAYAH: U.S. Position Positive, Damascus Awaiting Christopher's Proposals"]

[Text] Damascus—As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher heads for the region today, it seems that there is an atmosphere of optimism in the Syrian capital that the U.S. secretary is carrying "positive" proposals to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel. Political circles in Damascus are talking about U.S. ideas and proposals which Secretary Christopher is going to carry with him for the sake of securing an agreement on a Syrian-Israeli declaration of principles in preparation for withdrawal from the Golan. However, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' says: "We are awaiting the U.S. secretary's visit in order to know what ideas and proposals he is bringing with him regarding the comprehensive peace process in the region, especially with regard to the Syrian track. We have no official information about these U.S. proposals or ideas. However, we are certain that the U.S. Administration is committed to the peace process and fully convinced that there can be no solution to the Middle East crisis or peace without Syria." Minister al-Shar' disclosed that "one of the aims of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington last month was to persuade the U.S. Administration to proceed with the peace process without Syria, to defer the issue of a solution with Syria until later, and to concentrate now on implementing the Oslo agreement only."

In its optimism about the peace process reaching its just course Syria is banking on the U.S. position, described by the Syrian foreign minister in his statement to AL-HAYAH as "positive, as Washington was not convinced of the Israeli prime minister's view that the Syrian issue be deferred."

An authoritative Syrian official has told AL-HAYAH: "There is no contradiction between the Syrian and U.S. position on the foundations on which the peace process in the region should center, that is, the principle of land for peace and implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories." The Syrian official said that "the United States has not got any problem with Syria in this connection. Its problem now is with the other party, Israel. Because Syria has affirmed its readiness for a comprehensive peace with Israel in return for full withdrawal."

Confirming this, Minister al-Shar' told AL-HAYAH that "Washington understands our position, namely that we want a declaration from Israel of withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories before resuming negotiation again."

Al-Shar' emphasized that "Syria has rejected Israel's proposal to hold secret negotiations and contacts to achieve a solution to the crisis with Syria. This is because there are no secrets in our position, which rejects that."

But is there not a price which Syria should pay in return for what Israel could offer if it accepts the declaration of principles idea in preparation for withdrawing from the Golan?

Anyone who visits the Syrian capital these days will feel that the Syrian position is "strong and fixed," and that Damascus is not prepared to make concessions. Minister al-Shar' says: "We cannot accept any agreement with Israel like others did—a reference to the PLO's acceptance of the Oslo agreement—so either an agreement on a comprehensive and just peace or no agreement or peace [at all]."

Media Assesses Christopher Tour of Region

Paper: Israeli Withdrawal Demanded

JN0412115193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the peace process and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region.

TISHRIN says: The White House has announced that President Clinton is interested in continuing the dialogue with President Hafiz al-Asad. Secretary Christopher said in Brussels that peace must be comprehensive.

TISHRIN adds: This positive attitude toward Syria is in itself positive. Syria, as recognized by all politicians and observers, is the key to peace in the region and its role is vital and important in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such an attitude adjusts the weakness and disintegration which the peace process faced as a result of the separate Oslo deal between Israel and the Palestinian party; a deal which is now facing a serious dilemma.

TISHRIN says: None of the American or world politicians is unaware of the fact that Syria has from the beginning opposed the policy of separate deals and partial solutions. Such deals only seek to avoid the real solution to the Middle East crisis, consecrate occupation, and undermine the principles and foundations of the Madrid Conference.

The paper adds: Indeed, soon after Rabin signed the deal or agreement, he announced that he is currently not interested in boosting the peace process with Syria, that he is not in a hurry, and that Syria must wait. In a clear attempt to disavow the peace process and its dues, he then accused Syria of adopting inflexible positions.

After discussing the Israelis' attempts to promote the Oslo deal and convince the Americans to ignore the Syrian track, the paper emphasizes the principal Syrian role in the peace process. The paper says the statements

made by U.S. officials show that they understand this fact and Syria's principal role.

TISHRIN adds: However, the peace process, which is now stumbling because of the Oslo deal and Israel's evasion, cannot be activated by showering Tel Aviv rulers with hundreds of aircraft and other modern weapons. This will only increase their intransigence and defiance of the international role. The way to activate it is by returning to the principles of the Madrid Conference and applying the U.S. commitments on establishing the just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN adds: Activating the Syrian-Israeli track hinges on Israel's true involvement in the peace process and its complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Syria has repeatedly explained that there will be no bargaining over a single grain of the Golan soil and that it will no longer enter into the labyrinth of negotiations with Israel unless Israel abides, in advance, by the principle of complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: It is time now for the United States to shoulder its responsibility and save the peace efforts, which are now, more than ever before, being threatened. This requires a move to action, and the translation of words into tangible reality on the ground.

Discussing the same subject in an article entitled "The Required Mission," AL-THAWRAH says Israel's escalation of bloody suppression in the occupied territories and attacks against south Lebanese villages at this time in particular aims at aborting and confusing the new U.S. endeavor to achieve progress on all tracks of peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This Israeli escalation came after U.S. President Clinton's administration accepted all Israeli military and financial requests, on the grounds of maintaining a qualitative Israeli edge over the Arabs and showering Israel with the rewards of peace for signing the agreement, which it has not implemented. Israel has already been paid well for entering the peace talks, which entered their third year without achieving any substantial progress because of Israel's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula.

AL-THAWRAH said the U.S. secretary's mission should this time be a distinguished one. It should be more decisive and different now that the U.S. Administration has understood and experienced at first hand Israel's evasive behavior and defiance of international legitimacy.

It is now imperative for the Clinton administration to put an end to Israel's behavior, a behavior which seeks to show that Washington lacks a firm policy it can defend and that it does not abide by its commitments.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: It is now time for the U.S. Administration to have some success—any success—to prove the credibility of its role toward the just Arab cause and to free itself from the sphere of total bias in favor of Israel, which defies international legitimacy. This being the case especially since Washington is convinced that the Arabs will not abandon their territory or rights and will not disavow the principles and foundations of the just and comprehensive peace. This is what Syria emphasizes. Syria rejects separate and partial solutions, and this has made Syria a pivotal point and one that enjoys respect and support in the region.

Paper: Israel's Position Criticized

JN0512091993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region, which aims to reactivate the peace process. Under the headline "Committed to the Principles of the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says: Now that Warren Christopher has begun a tour of the region to reactivate the stalled peace talks, the analyses of various news media all over the world are unanimous on the need to resume the peace talks and comply with the basic terms and conditions of the peace process. These analyses also were unanimous that Syria holds the key to the success of this process. They affirmed that there can be no peace in the region without Syria.

The paper notes that the U.S. secretary of state is fully aware that Syria has worked earnestly to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and that it helped create propitious circumstances for the success of the peace process. In contrast, since the start of the peace process, Israel has striven to dilute substantive issues, which are at the heart of the conflict. Consequently, it sought to conclude partial and separate settlements to evade a comprehensive and just solution, which was the target of the peace process in the first place.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in Syria are for just and comprehensive peace. We are endeavoring to achieve this peace. In the same vein, we are opposed to any talks outside the framework of the peace process, whose terms and requirements have become public knowledge. Moreover, it is impossible for partial and separate deals to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which has cooperated earnestly with the cosponsors of the peace process, is opposed to any bargaining over the principles of the peace process. It will cooperate with peace-loving forces until the objectives of the peace process are achieved.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the same issue. It comments on statements made by Israeli officials ahead of the U.S. secretary of state's tour. In these statements, Israeli officials reiterated their opposition to withdrawal from the Golan, although they acknowledged that it is impossible to achieve peace without Syrian involvement.

TISHRIN says: These statements confirm that Israeli positions and attitudes remain unchanged. They show that Israel has done nothing to promote the cause of peace, that it has no desire to achieve peace, and that its methods of evasion and deception also remain unchanged.

The paper notes the statements made by Israeli Army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, in which he called for the redeployment of the Israeli Army on the Golan in return for security arrangements—something that runs counter to the Syrian position, which calls for complete Israeli withdrawal in return for full peace. The paper affirms that this Israeli position is, by all standards, a deliberate evasion of just and comprehensive peace. This position is an obstacle Israel has chosen to place in the way of Christopher's efforts during his current tour of the region.

The paper adds: Undoubtedly, these positions and practices are reminiscent of the obstacles Israel placed in the way of peace efforts whenever former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker toured the region, when it timed the building of settlements in the occupied territories to coincide with Baker's tours, which aimed to finalize arrangements for the peace process and the convocation of the Madrid conference. Here is Israel pursuing the same old obstructionist and evasive policy, without fearing any punishment at all. It is reiterating its adherence to the same old methods and positions that jeopardized the peace process. These methods and positions are meant to blackmail U.S. efforts, particularly since Christopher, ahead of his tour of the region, clearly announced that the U.S. position is based on the need for a comprehensive and just peace. This means that the separate solutions and partial deals Israel is promoting have nothing whatsoever to do with just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Syria will accept nothing short of the complete return of the Golan to its sovereignty as a condition for the resumption of peace talks, and for saving the peace process, which has stalled due to Israel's refusal to honor the centerpiece of the U.S. peace initiative, namely, the principle of trading land for peace.

As for AL-THAWRAH newspaper, it also addresses Christopher's tour of the region, saying: Before his arrival in the region, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher made statements expressing his full conviction that peace must be comprehensive. This reflects the serious U.S. desire to create the propitious circumstances for tangible progress on all tracks. Christopher will find himself facing a difficult mission in Israel. He will see that the Rabin government is lending deaf ears to any proposal that could give momentum and vitality to the peace process. He will find that it is unwilling to take any initiative that could remove the obstacles and barriers precluding the resumption of the bilateral negotiations.

The paper notes that the Israeli statements made ahead of Christopher's tour of the region indicate that Israel holds in complete disregard the wishes of the international community in general, and those of the United States in particular, because it was the United States which has undertaken to push the peace process forward.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Israeli positions can in no way help achieve true and comprehensive peace. As a matter of fact, these positions are further aggravating and complicating the situation. Hence, the U.S. Administration is required to double its efforts to make Israel come to its senses.

Paper on 'Responsibility' of U.S.

JN0612073093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on Syria's constant position on the peace process, AL-BA'TH says: During his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's constant position on the peace process, which aims at achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. President al-Asad also affirmed Syria's desire to continue to cooperate with the United States to advance negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, so the peace process may achieve its objectives.

AL-BA'TH says this position is not new for Syria and its principled policy that is fundamentally based on defending the interests of the nation and protecting its existence and destiny from any threats. Naturally, this position reminds us of the fundamentals on which the peace process was launched in Madrid and continued in negotiations for two years in Washington, which Israel tried to derail and blow up.

AL-BA'TH goes on: This also reminds us of Syria's acceptance of the Madrid formula and then the ideas it presented in its paper, adopting international legitimacy and UN resolutions. Observers said the Syrian paper opens the door to achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The newspaper notes Israel's policy of maneuvering and evading the peace obligations, as well as its various attempts to outflank the Syrian position.

AL-BA'TH affirms that Washington has renewed its commitment to a sustained endeavor to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, as contained in President Clinton's letter to leader al-Asad. This U.S. attitude reaffirms the principle of a comprehensive solution and the return to the Madrid formula.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The peace which serves the interests of all parties is one based on international legitimacy and its resolutions which clearly stipulate Israel's commitment to withdrawing from all of the occupied Arab

territories. Therefore, the objective of a just and comprehensive peace must be a common denominator to all those working for the stability of the region. This raises an old- new question: For how much longer will Israel oppose the achievement of peace?

Under the headline "U.S. Responsibility," TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has stressed in Damascus the U.S. determination to pursue efforts on all tracks to advance the peace process. He also stressed Syria's important role in achieving a comprehensive peace sought by the countries of the region.

The paper further speaks about Syria's sincerity toward the question of peace, saying this no longer requires evidence. At the end of the sixth round, Syria presented a constructive, balanced paper. Had Israel responded to this paper, peace would now have been a reality in the region.

TISHRIN adds: All Arab and international efforts, as well as the Washington talks, have clashed with Israel's expansionist schemes. Israel wants to swallow Jerusalem and important parts of the West Bank, in addition to a part of the Golan and south Lebanon. It expects the Arabs to yield to its ambitions, and thus officially surrender their rights and territories on paper.

The paper goes on: We do not think that the international community will exchange its plan of a real, durable peace for transitional settlements that further complicate and aggravate matters. The Middle East has not enjoyed stability for more than 40 years. It is now looking forward to a durable peace, and not a truce that will soon collapse under the pressure of successive developments and changes.

TISHRIN adds: By their maneuvering and circumvention of the Security Council resolutions, the fundamentals of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace formula, the Israelis greatly endanger the entire peace process and deliberately seek more calamities and tragedies in the region. Therefore, the United States has a great responsibility for safeguarding the fundamentals of the Madrid conference against tampering and manipulation, and working for a true, durable peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria is not demanding miracles. What Israel sees as hard-line attitudes is nothing more than a demand to end the occupation of the Golan. Syria's demand stems from its rights and is in line with the principles of international law and international legitimacy and its resolutions. Israeli withdrawal paves the way for true peace which the region and the world are seeking. Without this withdrawal, Israel alone will be the party obstructing the peace process and subjecting the Middle East to further disputes.

Radio: U.S. Urged To Thwart Israel

JN0512154393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When it convened under President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday, the National Progressive Front [NPF] underlined Syria's commitment to national and Arab parameters and to a fair and comprehensive Middle East peace. The NPF expressed its satisfaction with the support Syria's position is receiving in the Arab arena and the international understanding it has won. In accommodating international peacemaking efforts, Syria has been driven by two fundamentals—no bargaining away of Arab rights and an insistence on a universal Middle East settlement that meets the aspirations of the countries of the region and clears the way for true peace grounded in justice.

Convinced that a Middle East peace settlement that is less than decent and that does not prove acceptable to the present and coming generations has no chance, Syria never compromised any of these two fundamentals throughout the two-year duration of the Washington talks. Having failed to dent or outflank the Syrian position, Israel sought to strike separate, clandestine deals. It trapped the Palestinians into an agreement that the Palestinian masses soon became aware of. In the meantime, Israel attempted to pressure the brotherly Jordanian Government into signing a similar separate deal. Israel imagined such tactics would outflank and isolate Syria in the Arab region.

It is no secret to the Arabs or Middle East watchers that by dodging a just and comprehensive peace and insisting on pushing separate deals and piecemeal settlements, Israel hopes to stay in all or part of the occupied Arab territories, swallowing all of Jerusalem. This explains Israel's portrayal of the Oslo agreement as a major concession on its part. In actual fact, it gave up nothing, while it retained full control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip's destinies and lent legitimacy to the Jewish settlements there. The same holds true for the occupied Golan Heights. Israel speaks of preparedness to take security risks; it offers a limited withdrawal from the territory in return for security arrangements and open borders. It offers similar arrangements in south Lebanon.

Israeli leaders publicly acknowledge that without Syria no Middle East peace settlement is possible. However, they continue to press for compromises on the Golan Heights. The Israeli chief of staff calls Syria's formula of full peace in return for full withdrawal impractical and declares that Israel would prefer a redeployment of its forces in the Golan in exchange for security arrangements and peace. Likewise, the Israeli foreign minister said yesterday a partial rather than a full withdrawal is possible. By way of a confirmation of Israel's intentions, the Zionist agriculture minister launched new agricultural facilities in the occupied Golan. Against the background of such Israeli moves, we must ask: While the

American secretary of state tours the region, how can one reconcile Israel's policies and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions? How can Israel reconcile its refusal to be bound by the Madrid conference guidlines and the Middle East peace requirements?

The United States pledged to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. It was on these principles that the Madrid conference convened, and the Washington talks went on and on. There is nothing in the Security Council resolutions about an exchange of any part of occupied Arab territory for peace. If anything, these resolutions viewed the acquisition of territory by force as an illegal act, demanded an Israeli pullout from all the occupied Arab territory, denounced settlement activity, annexation, and Judaization as null and void and contravening the Geneva Convention and the rules of international law.

How can anyone in the world expect Syria to yield to Israel's extortionist tactics and surrender part of the Golan Heights? How can anyone in the world expect Syria to surrender its sovereignty over its own territory and brush aside the interests of its own displaced people who have, since 1967, been waiting for their rights to be met and their grievances to be redressed? Why is it necessary for international law and Security Council resolutions to be flouted? Must Israel's expansionist and belligerent ambitions be accommodated as a given? By pursuing such policies, Israel not only kills the prospects for peace with Syria, but puts at risk the entire Middle East peace process.

Having pledged itself to certain obligations, including a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement, the United States is duty bound to save the Washington talks from Israel's prevarication and to reiterate that peace is contingent on full compliance with the Security Council resolutions and the evacuation of the occupied territory. Both recent and old history show that occupation and peace never ever go together.

Commentary Urges Israeli Withdrawal

JN0412155693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The White House has reaffirmed that President Clinton is interested in continuing the dialogue with President Hafiz al-Asad to work for peace in the Middle East. Moreover, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said there is no alternative to a comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, Israeli officials in Tel Aviv voiced their protest of the U.S. Administration's plans to push the peace process forward on the Syrian track.

Some of these Israeli officials declared the impossibility of withdrawing from occupied Golan for security reasons, while others justified this with the need to digest the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The fact is that the agreement, which was drafted in Oslo and signed in Washington, has met with a series of failures because it contradicts the Palestinian people's national rights and does not prepare for peace, inasmuch as it is aimed at legalizing the Israeli occupation.

Under the pretext of digesting the agreement, Israel is trying to devour the occupied Arab territories and to liquidate the Palestinian intifadah and its struggling cadres. If the Oslo agreement was meant to serve the peace process, it should have assisted in calming the situation and achieving noticeable relaxation inside the occupied Arab territories. However, the reverse is true. The occupied territories were set ablaze after it became clear to the Palestinian people that their national rights are targeted and that Israel is seeking to crush the resistance that has been going on for six years and to legalize its hateful occupation.

Because Israel does not want to withdraw from the occupied territories, it has escalated its opposition to the U.S. position on pushing peace efforts on the Syrian track. Israel fully realizes that such a position means emphasizing Syria's central role in the peace process and activating the Syrian document on exchanging land for peace. Moreover, Israel realizes that peace with Syria requires the full withdrawal of its troops from the occupied Golan and that it cannot maneuver or procrastinate in this regard. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. The UN Security Council resolutions are clear. The entire world community supports the demand for full withdrawal.

Syria is a major country in the region and its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict is vital and primary. There can be no peace without its participation and approval. Indeed, peace in the region should start with Syria. Since peace with Syria is inevitably linked to the full return of occupied Golan, Israel considers withdrawal a serious precedent that must reflect on the other tracks. This strikes a serious blow to the policy of separate deals and the policy of singling out Arab parties, one after another. This is especially true since Syria adheres to achieving a just peace on all fronts of the conflict and to the comprehensiveness of the solution. It categorically rejects secret negotiations and bargaining on Arab rights.

The failure of the Oslo agreement and the situation erupting inside the occupied territories reveals to the world that Syria is right in its policy on achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN resolutions and the principles of international law. If the world community, led by the United States, realizes the seriousness of slipping toward Israel's stance, which aims at circumventing the process to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East, we ask: Is the United States, in its capacity as the main sponsor of the peace process, exerting pressure on Israel to effectively participate in the peace process? Is the United States dotting the i's and crossing the t's, expecially since the peace process has been seriously obstructed since the signing of the Oslo agreement and is now facing the threat of collapse?

The United States realizes that reviving the stalled peace process is not confined to having the parties concerned resume the Washington talks. Indeed, first of all, it requires a frank commitment on Israel's part to withdraw from the occupied territories and implement the UN Security Council resolutions. Syria, for its part, has made it clear that from now on, it will not take part in futile talks. For two years, Syria has proven its concern about peace and its earnest search for it. No one can point an accusing finger at Syria. Indeed, Syria's participation in the peace process was and still is basic. Without Syria's encouraging stand, the Madrid conference would not have been held in the first place.

In the final analysis, pushing the peace process forward depends on the United States' ability to play its responsible role in crystallizing its commitments and implementing UN Security Council resolutions to achieve full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Without this withdrawal, the peace process will continue to be locked in a vicious circle and prone to setbacks.

Afghanistan

Pir Ahmad Gaylani Offered Prime Minister Post

BK0412055293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Kabul, Dec 4 (AFP)—A senior mojahedin leader said Friday [3 December] he had been asked to become prime minister by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other mojahedin leaders. He said he would accept if various conditions were met.

Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaylani, a hereditary Sufi leader with ties to former King Zahir Shah, said he would be prepared to take over the portfolio if the country expanded its national assembly and created a national army and security force. But he said he also wanted better definition of the powers of the president, prime minister and cabinet.

Speaking to AFP at his Kabul residence Gaylani said that if Golboddin Hekmatyar, the current prime minister "resigned of his own will, or if the High Council decides to dismiss him, then I will accept the post."

Gaylani said he was seeking a peaceful transfer of power to the mojahedin under the sponsorship of the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

He denied receiving any assistance from western countries: "I don't need their help to get the prime minister's post," he said. "The president himself is asking me to hold this responsibilty. I am a democrat, and this should not be interpreted as being pro-West."

Factions loyal to Rabbani and Hekmatyar have been fighting each other for the past month in a struggle for political dominance in the country.

Foreign Minister Returns From Regional Tour

LD0312183793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, who paid official and friendly visits to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey at the invitation of the foreign ministers of these two countries, returned to Kabul today.

Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs, also paid unofficial visits to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India. He held talks with government authorities of these countries and exchanged views on the consolidation of good relations between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and these countries, as well as on broadening cooperation in various fields and attracting aid for the construction of the country.

He was welcomed at Kabul Airport by esteemed Sayed Salman Gaylani, minister of border affairs, deputy foreign ministers, and some high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Suspect in Sidqi Attack Case Living Near Kabul

PM0312100693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ra'fat Yahya and Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Plotter of Attempt on Sidqi's Life Has Left Pakistan; Afghan Sources Confirm He Is in Kabul"]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Peshawar—Reliable Afghan sources have confirmed what the Pakistani Foreign Ministry announced yesterday, namely that retired Colonel Muhammad Makkawi, accused in the attempt to assassinate Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, is not inside Pakistani territory.

The sources said in a statement to AL-HAYAH that Makkawi, who is spokesman for the "Vanguards of Conquest—Islamic Jihad movement," has for some time been living in a Kabul suburb. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry has told AL-HAYAH that what some newspapers published about Makkawi's presence in Pakistan is untrue.

The Pakistani official pointed out that the Egyptian ambassador to Islamabad, Mustafa Hanafi, spoke with Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials yesterday and stressed to them that he had not received any official information from Cairo to the effect that Egyptians living in Pakistan were implicated in the abortive attempt to assassinate Sidqi last Thursday.

The Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH that the Egyptians who are wanted to stand trial in their country left Pakistan after the latter decided to cooperate at the security level with Egypt. Most of them went to hide in various places in Afghanistan.

The sources did not specify the nature of the quarter providing shelter and protection for the suspect Makkawi, nor did they specify when he left Pakistan. However, they confirmed that he is in a suburban area of Kabul jointly controlled by various factions. [passage omitted]

India

Further Reportage on Results of State Elections

Congress-I Takes Office in Himachal Pradesh

BK0312162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh the Congress-I government has assumed office, while in Uttar Pradesh the Samajwadi Party-BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] combine leader has been invited to form the government. In Rajasthan political activities continue to form the new government. The Madhya Pradesh Congress-I legislature party will elect its leader tomorrow.

In Simla Mr. Vir Bhadra Singh was sworn in as the chief minister this evening. The governor, Mr. Surendra Nath,

administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Singh at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House]. Central observers and several other dignitaries were present. With today's swearing in, the one-year-old president's rule also ends in the state.

Talking to our correspondent, Mr. Vir Bhadra Singh said his government will work to meet the aspirations of the people and for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden.

Leaders Named

BK0312140093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Vir Bhadra Singh has been elected as the leader of the Congress-I Legislature Party [CLP]. A joint announcement by the central observers—Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Beant Singh, Union Minister of Steel Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, Member of Parliament Mr. R.R. Sahu, and the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] General Secretary Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde—said that the election was unanimous. Thirty members of the CLP out of 52 were present at the meeting. The observers said that the remaining could not arrive from New Delhi in time. The minister of state for railways, Mr. K.C. Lenka, has congratulated Mr. Vir Bhadra Singh.

Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] will be the new chief minister of Rajasthan. An official spokesman told our Jaipur correspondent that Mr. Shekhawat will be administered the oath of office and secrecy tomorrow. Mr. Shekhawat has claimed the support of 10 independent MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly]. The party had secured 95 seats in the 200-member house.

The leader of the SP [Samajwadi Party]-BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] combine, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has been invited to form the government in Uttar Pradesh. The Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] sources told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent a short while ago that the swearing in will take place tomorrow morning.

Results of Mizoram Elections

BK0512092893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] In Mizoram, the newly elected legislators of the Congress-I and its supporters are meeting in Aizawl this afternoon to elect their leader. The president of the Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee, Mr. (Siamgarka), told our correspondent that the chief minister, Mr. Lal Thanhawla, is returning to Aizawl from Calcutta today. The arrival of the newly elected legislators from different parts of the state is also awaited. As reported earlier, the Congress-I and its supporters have won an absolute majority in the 40-member House. The last result of the Mizoram assembly election has gone in favor of the Mizo National Front [MNF]. Its candidate T. (Khaiyuka) has been elected from the Lunglei constituency defeating his nearest Congress-I rival Mr. B. (Thanhunga) by a margin of 92 votes. With this the Mizo National Front has secured 14 seats in the 40-member House. As reported earlier, the Congress-I and the independents supported by the party have secured an absolute majority with the party bagging 16 seats and it independent allies eight. Two independents supported by the MNF have also been elected. Prominent Congress-I winners include the chief minister, Mr. Lal Thanhawla; the finance minister, Mr. J. Lal Sangzuala; the minister of state for sports and youth affairs, Mr. P.C. (Virangsangliana); the power minister, Mr. C.L. Ruala; and the education minister, Mr. (Viavanga). Prominent Congress-I losers include the speaker, Mr. Rokamlova; and the public health engineering minister, Mr. S. Hiato. Former chief minister and leader of the independent group supported by the Congress-I, Brigadier T. Sailo, also lost to the MNF candidate in the Aizawl North two constituency. The latest tally: Number of seats 40; Results declared 40; Congress-I 16; MNF 14; independents and others 10.

Minister: 19 Foreigners Arrested in Kashmir

BK0612112393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The government is keen to restore normalcy and reactivate the political process in Jammu and Kashmir soon. Various steps have been taken to achieve the objective. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha in a written answer today that apart from streamlining the security arrangements, attention is being paid to reactivate the local administration to bridge the gap between the administration and the people. Several efforts are also being made to step up development and economic activity.

In reply to another question, he said there are reports of intensification of efforts from across the border to infiltrate foreign mercenaries into Jammu and Kashmir to step up violence. Nineteen foreigners have been apprehended so far this year. He said according to investigations, the arrested include persons from Pakistan, Lebanon, and Bahrain. The matter has been taken up with these countries at the diplomatic level.

In a written reply to another question, the minister said security around the Hazratbal shrine has been tightened to prevent any misuse of the shrine by criminals and antinational elements. He said the surrender by the militants inside the Hazratbal shrine was unconditional. Of the 62 persons who came out, 35 have been released by the state government as they were found innocent. Two foreigners were among them who claimed to be from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

13 'Militants' Killed

BK0312155093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 17 persons, including 13 militants, were killed today in different encounters. At

Shalimar in Srinagar, 10 militants and one security personnel were killed in an encounter when militants opened fire on a patrol party. Eight AK-type rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the site. In another encounter in Anantnag District, three militants and two security personnel were killed. In Srinagar, a boy was killed in the cross fire between the militants and security forces.

Two Soldiers Killed

BK0512155593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Army jawans [soldiers] have foiled an infiltration bid by militants supported by Pakistani troops in the Punch sector. Official sources said Pakistani soldiers opened heavy fire on Friday [3 December] night when Army jawans challenged the intruding militants. Two jawans were killed in the firing. The jawans returned the fire, forcing the militants to flee.

Two Pakistanis Killed

BK0612052493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, seven militants, including two Pakistani nationals, were killed in an encounter at (Keller) in Pulwama yesterday. The encounter took place when the security forces were conducting search operations. Nine AK-47 rifles and some pistols were recovered from the city.

Bombs Explode on 4 Trains; Casualties Reported

BK0612074693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Two persons were killed and several injured when bombs exploded on the Delhi-bound Andhra Pradesh [AP] superfast express and three Rajdhani express trains. Two persons were killed and 14 others injured when a bomb went off in a sleeper coach in AP Express at (Molali) near Secunderabad. Two of the injured are serious. Four persons were injured in a blast that occurred in a AC [air conditioned] two-tier coach in the Delhi-bound express from Bombay between Kota and Gangapur City railway station. Another blast took place in a toilet of a chair-car coach of the Rajdhani Express from Howrah to Delhi. No one was injured in the blast. The pantry car of the Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Howrah via Patna caught fire following a blast late last night in which two persons sustained injuries. In another blast, a passenger of the Flying Rani Express bound from Bombay was injured in Gujarat.

The minister of state for Railways, Mr. K.C. Lenka, has strongly condemned the incident of bomb explosions. He expressed concern over what he called acts of terrorism by antisocial elements. Several members of the Lok Sabha expressed the anxiety over the bomb blasts. Raising the matter at the beginning of the question hour, Mr. Nirmal Chatterji of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist] asked the government to make a statement on the issue. The speaker said that the matter can be raised after the question hour.

Steps Taken To Prevent 'Terrorist' Bombings

BK0612095093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Delhi police have taken a number of steps to prevent bomb blasts by terrorists. Antiterrorist cells have been formed in each police district. The home minister told the Lok Sabha that armed pickets have been posted at vulnerable points and mobile patrolling intensified. Mr. Chavan was replying to a question on the bomb explosion on the 11th of September at Raisina Road when the youth Congress-I president, Mr. M.S. Bitta, was leaving his office. The home minister said a member of KLF [Khalistan Liberation Force] group of terrorists who was identified as being behind the blast committed suicide when he was cornered by the police. Nine persons were killed and 29 injured in the blast. Fourteen vehicles were also damaged.

Northeastern States Asked To Raise Reserves

BK0512094693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The center has asked the northeastern states to raise India Reserve Battalions to curb insurgency. Addressing a news conference in Kohima, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said the center will provide financial assistance for raising these battalions. Mr. Pilot said the new force will have its eastern region headquarters in Gauhati to facilitate mobility in times of emergency. He said the northeastern states have been asked to review the law and order situation every month at the chief ministers level for effective coordination.

PRC's Li Ruihuan Meets With Rao, Views Terrorism

BK0412042993 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] India and China believe that cooperation between the two countries can make a significant contribution to peace in Asia and in the world. This emerged when a Chinese delegation led by the chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr. Li Ruihuan, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi. Mr. Rao recalled his recent visit to China and said Mr. Li's visit was an important follow-up for Sino-Indian cooperation.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Li said China is ready to cooperate with other countries in fighting terrorism. Mr. Li Ruihuan said that China has been condemning and opposing terrorism in any form all along. Mr. Li expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will solve the Kashmir issue through dialogue and negotiations.

Singh, Afghan Foreign Minister Hold Talks

LD0212173193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala met with Dinesh Singh, India's minister of foreign affairs, in Delhi yesterday. At this meeting both sides spoke about the strengthening of relations between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Republic of India.

Singh Meets With Uzbek Foreign Minister

BK0312085193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] India and Uzbekistan have expressed their total opposition to fundamentalism and terrorism and said that the state-sponsored and cross-border terrorism must be fought at all costs. These views were expressed at a meeting between the visiting foreign minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Saidqasymov, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. On the situation in Tajikistan, Mr. Qasymov said that external interference must be removed for peace and stability in the region. He said external intervention was instigating religious and fundamentalist forces. Mr. Dinesh Singh said that India faces a virtually identical situation in Kashmir where terrorism was fomented and supported from across the border.

Iran

Defense Minister Leaves for Talks in DPRK

LD0612094993 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Defense Minister Mohammad Foruzandeh heading a delegation left here for North Korea Monday [6 December] to attend the fifth session of Iran-North Korea joint economic commission in Pyongyang. Foruzandeh, also the co-chairman of Iran-North Korea joint commission, told IRNA before departure that he will discuss economic and trade issues with Korean officials in Pyongyang. North Korea is interested in cooperating with Iran in housing construction, said the minister.

Asked to comment on the western allegations regarding his ministry's involvement in nuclear activities, Foruzandeh denied them categorically. He noted that all Iranian nuclear facilities have recently been inspected by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that they expressed their full satisfaction with the outcome of their visit.

The Islamic Republic has always rejected western allegations on production of weapons of mass destruction by Iran. Iranian political analysts have maintained that the western analysts in their double-standard policy have unfairly accused Iran of building up its arsenal while ignoring the rapid arms race in which other countries in the region have enterred to the detriment of peace and security in the region and to the benefit of bankrupt economies of western countries whose very economic survival depends on the production and sale of weapons of all kinds, including weapons of mass destruction.

U.S.-DPRK 'Crisis' Over Inspections Viewed

LD0512142193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] A recent North Korean proposal pertaining to the inspection of a number of its nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has received a cold U.S. reaction. That is despite the fact that North Korea, on the basis of its principles and national interest, had repeatedly rejected any kind of effort to gain access to its nuclear weapons.

For the past few days, America has increased its psychological and propaganda warfare against Pyongyang. The crisis in the U.S.-North Korean relations is gaining new momentum as Washington continues to accuse Pyongyang of violating the IAEA regulations and then threatens North Korea with economic sanctions.

The policy of imposing sanctions against North Korea is one of the Democrats' basic theories. They believe that they can force the government and nation of that country to surrender. But past experience has shown that economic sanctions or even the threat of military attacks cannot force the North Korean leaders to surrender to Washington's illogical request. [passage omitted]

Many political experts believe that the issue of North Korean nuclear installations is nothing but a pretext to enforce the U.S. domineering policies in the region, because Pyongyang has already announced its acceptance of the international inspection without U.S. interference.

Right when when the Clinton government spoke of the possibility of an attack against North Korea, the North Korean Government showed its good intentions by announcing its readiness for an active participation in discussions over its nuclear installations and again offered its installations for inspection. [passage omitted]

Existing evidence shows that America is trying to gradually place the plan to stop North Korea's nuclear capability within the international disarmament framework. By implementing that plan, Americans intend to disarm the countries that may in the long term, in Washington's view, act as a barrier against U.S. economic and security policies.

But the Zionist regime, which is one of the main obstacles in turning the Middle East into a nuclear-free zone, does not meet the same kind of reaction. That regime even officially claims that it can produce nuclear

weapons, but it refuses to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. However, it is North Korea that has become the target of the U.S. disarmament policies.

In fact, U.S. policy in the East Asian region places Pyongyang in a situation in which it resorts to popular support and resists Washington.

A more important fact about the U.S. policies in the Korean Peninsula is the position of China, which can be a significant player in stopping any kind of adventurism by Washington in the region.

Commentary Hails IAEA Report on Nuclear Efforts

NC0412114293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has stated in a report on Iran's nuclear activities that there is no cause for concern and that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not intend to make nonpeaceful use of nuclear energy.

The IAEA secretary general's report was submitted after studies were made by a delegation sent to Iran by the agency. In Khordad [month ending 21 June] Hans Blix stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the IAEA was perfect and that there was no proof that Iran was using nuclear material for nonpeaceful purposes.

The IAEA's inspection and report on Iran's nuclear activities took place within the framework of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact and agreements between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact is a worldwide agreement that was approved in 1968 to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms in the world. Under this pact, nuclear countries have refrained from transferring nuclear arms and technology to other countries, while nonnuclear countries have agreed not to attempt to attain nuclear arms. The IAEA has been assigned the job of supervising the implementation of the pact. By signing agreements with various countries, the IAEA monitors the nuclear installations and activities of countries in a bid to prevent the nonpeaceful use of nuclear energy.

The IAEA's view, which has been announced at a time when Iran is being accused of trying to gain access to nuclear arms, is very significant. Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran is a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact and emphasizes the peaceful use of nuclear energy, there has been a wave of propaganda about Iran's intentions and efforts to acquire nuclear arms.

This propaganda, which is mainly being disseminated by America, is aimed more at inflicting pressure and sanctions on Iran than at preventing nuclear proliferation. America has resorted to this accusation on several occasions and has called on its allies to review their relations with Iran.

While revealing that there is no basis for the false propaganda against Iran, the remarks by the IAEA secretary general as an impartial and international source showed that Iran does not intend to make nonpeaceful use of nuclear energy and that its activities to acquire nuclear energy are within the framework of international pacts that grant this right to every country.

Demands Inspection of Israeli Installations

LD0412210493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Dr. Hans Blix has termed as positive the results of IAEA's expert's team trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Blix, in a report, stated on Thursday, 2 December, that an IAEA team quite freely visited from 15 November to 21 all the intended nuclear installations in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Blix said the Iranian officials effectively cooperated with the delegation.

He also described as very constructive the talks by the agency inspectors and the Iranian officials regarding matters of interest to both sides.

It is noteworthy that during its stay to Iran, the team visited centers which Iran was not compelled to declare based on the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Moreover, based on the IAEA's spokesman, since long ago the agency's inspection team had been invited to inspect the atomic centers in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The IAEA's inspection of Iran's nuclear installations is taking place at a time when studying Iran's atomic program is not on the agenda of the directing board of the agency.

The IAEA last year at the end of their teams trip to Iran had notified that all centers had been inspected based on regulations pertaining to the peaceful use of atomic energy and proved one more time the falsehood of current disillusions [as heard] regarding Iran's nuclear programs.

It is noteworthy the International Atomic Energy Agency is considered the highest expert international source in the field of nuclear energy and with 190 countries membering it.

A part of agency's activity is related to conclusion of contracts with the membering states based on which the agency tries to confirm or deny claims on peaceful

deployment of nuclear energy by membering states through getting comprehensive information about each country's nuclear activities.

It is, therefore, natural that the agency plays an important role in prevention and proliferation of nuclear arms in the world.

The second part of the IAEA activities include efforts made for proliferation of nuclear technology on the global level. The agency to this and endeavors to aid the developing membering states, to some extent, to get access to the technology. [sentence as heard]

While the countries with advanced nuclear industry lay emphasis on the significance of the IAEA inspection activities, the developing states construe the transfer of technology important and demand the creation of balance between the two responsibilities of the agency's activities.

On the other hand, though it is more important probably that the agency, in carrying out these activities under the title of inspection of the membering countries' nuclear installations, does not observe equality of thought.

Based on Mr. Blix's remarks, the Zionists have been financing an atomic projects in the occupied Palestine for ages with the U.S. support for them and are the only party to the Middle East talks who refrain from allowing the international inspection of its nuclear installations.

In fact if the IAEA is responsible to fight the nonpeaceful nuclear projects, then it should consider its serious duty of its own the inspection of nuclear installations of those governments which act in line with nonpeaceful use of the atomic energy.

Commentary Views Objectives of Christopher Tour

NC0412122993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Section]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Israel yesterday on the first leg of his Middle East tour. After the occupied territory of Palestine, he will visit Jordan, Syria, Egypt and possibly Lebanon, where he will discuss the developments in the Middle East peace process with the heads of these countries. A visit to Tunis and a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat are also included on the U.S. secretary of state's diplomatic overtures. This is the first time that Tunis has been included on Christopher's itinerary as part of the peace process.

The official objective of the U.S. secretary of state's visit indicates that Christopher's overtures will concentrate on two areas. The first is the solution of the new problems that have emerged in the 'Arafat-Tel Aviv peace process and the second is the establishment of direct talks between Syria and Israel and the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the two sides.

As far as the first area of the U.S. diplomatic machinery's overtures are concerned, undoubtedly Christopher is facing many problems, a large part of which stem from the hostile and expansionist character of the Zionist regime while another stems from the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations and Washington's protective policy toward the Zionist regime's leaders. These special characteristics have not only prevented the PLO-Israeli pact from being widely accepted on the political and popular fronts but the negative outlook and the consequences of the compromise have pushed many of the initial wishful thinkers and 'Arafat's initial supporters into the opposition.

In other words, instead of the problems in the compromise being solved on a limited and diplomatic level, by granting a popular nature to the problems the compromisers have lost their initiative and the anti-Zionist intifadah has intensified. Meanwhile, by increasing the suppression of Islamic forces and extending the suppression, arrests, and murders of combatant Palestinian forces even among 'Arafat's supporters, the Zionist regime has drastically limited the number of impartial elements in the Palestinian ranks.

Also, the unilateral announcement by Israel on postponing the timetable for the implementation of self-rule has shown that the implementation of the agreement is contingent on a decision made only by one side—the Zionist regime—and that 'Arafat and his clique can do nothing but ensure Israel's interests. Christopher does not have much maneuvering room on this matter, especially when Israel has refused to accept 'Arafat's proposal for U.S. mediation.

As for the second area of Christopher's mission—that is, the establishment of talks between Syria and Israel—undoubtedly Christopher has more at his disposal, even though Washington cannot be very hopeful that these efforts will succeed. The expansionist character of the Zionist regime in this, too, does not allow the U.S. Secretary of State much room for maneuvering and what Christopher can look forward to are threats and pressure, not logic.

The convening of the 12th round of compromise talks in Washington, which were halted four months ago, is also an objective that, of course, the U.S. secretary of state will pursue, especially if an agreement is reached or if the possibility of the talks' convening emerges.

Reportedly To Push for Ending Boycott

NC0412192693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in occupied Palestine yesterday on his new Middle East tour. Later, he will visit Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

The U.S. secretary's current regional visit is his third this year. According to U.S. State Department sources, Christopher will seek to foster a climate that will invigorate the Arab-Israeli talks and eliminate the obstacles hindering the negotiations between Syria and the Zionist entity.

The peace talks became deadlocked after the 11th round of negotiations when the PLO signed an unexpected agreement with the Zionist entity on Gaza and Jericho. Syria did not conceal its displeasure and said the Gaza-Jericho Agreement would alter the course of the peace negotiations. It accused the Zionist entity of not being serious enough in the discussions.

The Syrians say that Israel, via separate bilateral agreements with the Arab parties, seeks to get greater concessions and divide Arab ranks. Since the peace talks stopped, Syrian officials have been emphasizing the basic conditions on the strength of which the Madrid peace conference was held. These call for implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In contrast, Israel has been pursuing a policy demonstrating that it is not concerned about these international principles and conventions, which define the framework of the peace process.

Several observers believe Christopher will try, during the current tour, to persuade the Zionist officials to introduce partial changes to their position to bring it as close as possible to the Syrian position. Of course, this might be one of Christopher's objectives, but chief among his aims will be to persuade Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian officials to end their economic boycott of the usurping entity.

It remains for us to wait and see what Christopher's new visit to the Middle East will produce.

Mission 'Not Expected To Succeed'

LD0512184793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1625 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, on the second leg of his Middle Eastern tour, arrived in Damascus today and held talks with the Syrian authorities on the so-called peace course in the Middle East.

Although most of the news media have reported that Christopher is pursuing two objectives during his visit—that of solving the PLO-Israeli differences on implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and of dragging Syria into a compromise—informed political analysts present a different interpretation of this visit. These analysts do not think that America will intervene in order to solve PLO-Israeli differences.

This is because during the past few months the White House's foreign policy has faced much frustration, and Christopher does not wish to add yet another instance of frustration to the list. Christopher's remarks, to the effect that the two signatories to the Gaza-Jericho accord should find a way of implementing its articles, and also his assertion that the United States will not intervene in this matter, contrary to the wishes of Israel, show that America will only intervene if the two sides reach agreement and guarantee that any U.S. initiative would bring positive results.

The U.S. support stance for Israel and Rabin's remarks, to the effect that the Gaza-Jericho accord was achieved directly without any mediators and that there is no need for a godfather figure to implement it, expose the U.S. and Israeli intention to prevent any mediation by Arab states, particularly Egypt. It seems as if Tel Aviv and Washington, after imposing the Gaza-Jericho accord when the PLO was weak, would like to repeat the experience and impose the implementation of its articles within the framework of another humiliating sellout.

Of course, this stance by Washington contradicts its role—that is, the role of a full partner in the peace talks. In addition, the current situation in the occupied territories and continuation of oppressive policies by the Zionist regime against Palestinians, fully serve the interests of Israel. The Israeli regime, by postponing its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho at the specified date, is evading a political crisis which could be created by the opposing Zionist parties; and is in fact passing the crisis onto the PLO.

The second leg of the U.S. secretary of state's visit, that is his trip to Syria, is the most significant part of his journey. Syria remains outside the U.S. circle of compromise, and to drag this country into the circle would be a great success, which the White House needs to achieve. Apart from that, the current state of compromise in the Middle East will only be stabilized if Syria is dragged into making peace with Israel.

On the question of solving the Middle East crisis, Syria differs with the United States on two points. First, Syria believes the Madrid conference was organized in accordance with the principles of implementing the Security Council resolutions and exchanging land for peace, and any deviation from these principles is unacceptable to Syria. On the other hand, the United States, in continuation of its supportive policy for Israel, asks Syria to compromise within the framework desired by Israel, without paying any attention to the Security Council resolutions.

Second, Syria differs with Washington on the point that Damascus believes a full Israeli withdrawal from the land captured during the 1967 war would end the Middle East crisis, but the Arabs are not obliged to incorporate [edgham] Israel into the region. Whereas the White House considers peace with Tel Aviv synonymous with

the start of establishing political, economic, and social ties between the Arabs and Israel.

In view of Washington's supportive stances for Israel, political analysts believe that in order to achieve success in reaching a compromise between Damascus and Israel, Washington would have no alternative but to concentrate its pressure on Syria. This would be mainly political pressure. However, Syria's commitment to its stances and America's silence about the date of the next round of peace talks show that Washington is not attaching much hope to further compromise in the search for peace in the region. Christopher's visit to Syria, therefore, is not expected to succeed.

Ayatollahs Give Sermons at Friday Prayers

Meshkini on Clinton-Rushdie Meeting

LD0312182693 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1527 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 3 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Clinton, the American President, recently met the apostate Salman Rushdie. He has deliberately snubbed and insulted more than 1 billion, if not 1.5 billion, Muslims. Clinton has revealed that he is not a politician. Today, politicians across the world are asking him: What did you achieve by meeting a man who has no identity, a man like Salman Rushdie? You have only pronounced your enmity against Islam and Muslims. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

Mr. Clinton, Muslims make up over one-fifth of the world population. Muslims inhabit more than 50 independent countries. They have more mines than anybody else. They have oil wells and other reserves. This foolish act has and will cost you dearly. Understand this. [crowd chants approval]

We used to think that you had no faith or piety, but understood politics. We were mistaken. You do not even understand politics. Islamic countries will be guilty if they do not react or at least complain about this foolish, malicious, and unjust act. We, the Iranian nation and government, as well as the world's Muslims condemn this act and hope that the American Government and people will soon realize their mistake.

I have to address another issue. Gentlemen, brothers and sisters, we are facing a hard winter. It is the responsibility of the government to provide for the cold, distant regions. In particular, oil and fuel should be provided for villagers. It is the responsibility of the government of the nation to provide food and medicine for the people. The government should be also thinking about solving the deadly inflation. Instead of promising heaven, it should reduce some of this hellish inflation. But I know that this problem of high prices will not be solved until those who have luxurious living, own cars costing 30-40 million, who live in palaces costing 100-200 million, who do not feel social problems and who use their expertise to manage their own affairs, are no longer in power. And there are many of them. From now on, I hope that our dignified government will take notice and reform its activity. It should investigate prices, high prices and inflation. [passage omitted]

Emami-Kashani on Economic Problems

LD0312172393 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3, IRNA—Substitute Friday prayers leader of Tehran Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani here today called on the government, Majles and other authorities to endeavor to tackle the economic problmes of the society.

"Economic issues are the basic problems of the soceity today, hence, the government and Majles are needed to utilize human resourses, activate economic centers, and remove unemployment," he said.

Referring to the 'Disabled Day' and valuable sevices rendered to the disabled after the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Kashani asked the government and the Majles to pay more attention to the disabled of the soceity.

On the eve of the auspicious birth anniverary of Hazrat Fatimah (SA) [God's peace be upon her], daughter of the Prophet (PBUH) [peace be upon him], he felicitated the Muslims on the occasion and said if a person followed the pattern of life of Hazrat Fatimah (SA), he/she would not face any problem in the life, and there would not be such problems as divorce and the like that we faced today.

Official: Iraq Holding POW's in 'Secret Camps'

LD0412173993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The head of the commission of the office for POW's has announced: Sincerity from the Iraqi regime is a necessary requirement for a resolution to the issue of the POW's and MIA's from the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

Mr. Nazaran told an IRNA correspondent: Iraqi officials have handed over fewer POW's to Iran than they announced. According to him, after the acceptance of UN Resolution No. 598 and in various interviews and announcements, Tariq 'Aziz, Sa'dun Hammadi, and the governor general of Basra admitted that there were 43,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq. Bearing this in mind, the Iraqi regime has handed over 4,000 fewer POW's than the number told to Iran.

The head of the commission of the office for POW's added: We have documents from inside and outside the country proving that 8,000 Iranian POW's are being kept in secret camps and at some Iraqi installations. He

added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously pursuing the issue of POW's and MIA's from the imposed war in keeping with the instructions and commands of the eminent leader.

Besharati Tells UAE Envoy Islands Dispute 'Minor'

LD0412152993 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said on Saturday [4 December] the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is "minor and solvable" through dialogue and warned that "the role of arrogant powers in fanning the flames of such difference should never be ignored." In a meeting with UAE Ambassador here Ahmad Muhammad Burhaymah, Besharati also expressed hope that the problem would be solved as soon as possible through contacts between officials of the two Muslim neighbors. The minister underlining the importance of brotherhood and friendship between Muslim nations, said "dialogue is the best way of patching up differences between countries."

Closer cooperation between Iranian and UAE officials would help consolidate peace and security in the Persian Gulf, the interior minister said. The UAE ambassador called for promotion of mutual relations and invited Besharati to visit the United Arab Emirates.

Azerbaijani Parliament Speaker Arrives on Visit

LD0412220393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Azerbaijani parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev arrived in Tehran on Saturday [4 December] morning for a two-day visit. He was welcomed by Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri.

In a meeting with the Majles speaker on Saturday, the Azerbaijani parliamentary chairman described the purpose of his visit to Tehran as following up the agreements and accords that were reached during President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Baku. He expressed the hope that his talks with Iranian officials would assist the expansion of the fraternal ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In connection with the fighting between the forces of Azerbaijan and Armenia, he said that the Republic of Azerbaijan would not surrender by the slightest extent its legal right to defend its territorial integrity, and he described as unacceptable Armenia's conditions for ending the fighting.

Expressing gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijani refugees, he called for international assistance for the refugees, especially during the winter months.

In the meeting, Nateq-Nuri expressed the hope that the visit of Azerbaijan's parliamentary chairman would strengthen ties between the two brother Muslim nations of Iran and Azerbaijan. He called on the Republic of Azerbaijan's clergymen to strengthen the spiritual aspects and religious interest of the people, thereby encouraging their steadfastness.

He expressed sympathy for the displaced people of Azerbaijan and criticized the double standards practiced by international organizations with respect to the fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces. He expressed the hope that, through the assistance of Muslims, that country's problems would be resolved as soon as possible.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0512170193 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Speaker of Azerbaijan's Parliament Rasul Guliyev in a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [5 December] handed over a message from President Gaydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the meeting referred to the current crisis between Azerbaijan and Armenia and said Iran would support any international effort which could help settlement of the crisis, and eventual withdrawal of the Armenian forces from occupied areas in Azerbaijan.

He also welcomed expansion of mutual ties in political, economic, oil and transport areas.

Guliyev in reply recalled the positive outcome of the President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Azerbaijan and said that his visit to Tehran aimed at following up the agreements reached by the two countries.

He appreciated Iran's humanitarian aid for Azeri refugees and briefed the president on the latest developements concerning the occupation of Azerbaijan's soil as well as regional and international efforts for the peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Discusses 'Invasion' With Velayati

LD0512175693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Rasul Guliyev, parliamentary chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic, this afternoon met Foreign Minister Velayati. They discussed regional issues, particularly the invasion of Azerbaijan by Karabakh's Armenians and ways of solving this problem. Also discussed were ways of implementing the documents signed by the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan. Mr. Guliyev called for the continuation of our country's support and its political and international assistance regarding the problem of Karabakh.

Mr. Velayati stressed the need for the occupying Armenian forces to withdraw from the Islamic Republic of Azerbaijan's territory. He stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to assist in solving this problem by utilizing all political resources. He also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to assist the refugees.

The Azerbaijan Republic's parliamentary chairman also met Oil Minister Aqazadeh, and discussed with him cooperation between the two countries over exploration and drilling.

Comments on Karabakh Situation

LD0512205193 Tehran IRNA in English 1948 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Azerbaijan's parliamentary speaker Rasul Guliyev announced here today that as long as the world community fails to adopt a decisive stance vis-a-vis the aggressive Armenian policies, the crisis of Karabakh would not be settled.

Speaking to the reporters at the end of his two-day visit to Iran, he added that the world community had not so far considered as aggressive the Armenian policy in Karabakh.

He said that his country insisted on finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, however, he said, Armenia had not so far accepted any of the UN Security Council's resolution to end the crisis. "Patience and self-restraint against aggression has a limit," he warned.

Guliyev said his visit to Tehran was "very successful" and noted that he had held fruitful talks with the Iranian authorities. Cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries would expand in the future, he added.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described Tehran- Baku relations as "broad and deep", and said that bilateral relations, regional issues and following up the agreements reached between the presidents of the two countries earlier, had been discussed during Guliyev's visit.

Official Urges Aid for Azerbaijani Refugees

LD0612093593 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Iran on Sunday [5 December] appealed to international organizations and world countries to send humanitarian aid to Azeri refugees in view of the approaching winter.

The plea was made by Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif in his meeting here with heads of 15 diplomatic missions to Iran and five Tehran-based international organizations.

It is necessary that foreign countries and international organizations speed up sending relief supplies to Azeri refugees so as to stop further aggravation of their living condition, Zarif said.

Referring to the large number of refugees and Iran's limited potential for humanitarian assistace to them, Zarif urged foreign countries and international bodies to send their cash and kind donations to refugees "at the earliest convenient" [as received].

According to Zarif, the conflict between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia has displaced 1.2 million Azeris.

In addition to supplying the Azeri refugees with foodstuff, clothing and medicine, the Islamic Republic has set up refugee camps inside the Azeri territory, the official said.

Azerbaijan Delivers Fuel to Northwestern Province

LD0412201393 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Parsabad Moghan (Ardebil Prov). Dec. 4, IRNA—The Republic of Azerbaijan delivers about 200,000 liters of gas oil and 50,000 liters of paraffin (kerosene) to Parsabad in this northwestern Iranian province daily.

The delivery, according to the governor of Parsabad, that started last week is on the basis of a recent agreement entered with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He said the gas oil now coming from Azerbaijan compensates the local shortage and that a surplus is delivered to nearby towns in Ardebil province. The gas oil shortage in Parsabad, he said, is solely due to the absence in the city of large storage facilities.

Turkmenistan Vice President Visits for Talks

Discusses Ties With Velayati

LD0512125293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The Turkmen vice president for international affairs, who arrived in Tehran this morning at the invitation of Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, has met the foreign minister to discuss the agreements reached during President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Turkmenistan.

Mr. [Boris] Shikhmuradov referred to the two countries' determination to expand bilateral ties and said: We hope that, during the upcoming visit to Tehran of Mr. Niyazov, the Turkmen president, new prospects will be created for the expansion and consolidation of bilateral and regional cooperation.

Stressing the importance of regional cooperation, he conveyed his country's wish to have the meeting of the Organization for Cooperation between Caspian Sea Littoral Countries held as soon as possible.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, referred to the positive progress being made with regard to the two countries' ties and to Tehran-Ashgabat cooperation and said: It is expected that Mr. Niyazov's visit to Iran will prove fruitful and successful for both countries.

According to our reporter, the Turkmen vice president has brought a message from Mr. Niyazov to present to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0512153893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Turkmenistan's vice president in charge of international affairs, Mr. Boris Shikhmuradov, arrived in Tehran this morning and was officially welcomed by Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati.

Shortly after his arrival, the Turkmen official called on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the dialogue the president stressed Tehran's willingness to expand ties with Central Asian republics, especially Turkmenistan, adding: the nations in the region can count on a promising future for more exchanges of views and wider joint cooperation, particularly in the political field.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani later emphasized more unity and coordination among the Caspian Sea littoral states in order to utilize the very suitable marine resources of the region.

In the meeting, the Turkmen vice president submitted a message from his country's head of state to his host and then hoped that his talks with Iranian authorities could lead to tangible outcomes and pave the way for deepening Irano-Turkmen ties. He said: He came to Iran to follow up the accords reached during Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Ashgabat and added that establishment of the Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization is in the interest of all regional states. He reflected his country's hope that other neighboring states attach the same importance to their ties with Tehran as Ashgabat does.

Ends Visit

LD0512190393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Boris Shikhmuradov, the vice president of Turkmenistan, left Tehran this afternoon after an eight-hour visit. He was seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In an interview with our reporter, before his departure, Shikhmuradov emphasized that relations between the two countries were good and growing. He added: Even though this was a short visit, it was nevertheless effective for the people and government of Turkmenistan.

Shikhmuradov said: Iran and Turkmenistan's officials are in full agreement over bilateral and regional issues.

Velayati also talked to our reporter about the two countries' shared cultural and historical experiences. He also termed as "satisfactory" the expansion of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Our country's foreign minister emphasized cooperation among Iran, the littoral countries of the Caspian sea, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. He noted that this cooperation was an important step in increasing economic ties and in the stability and security of the region. [passage omitted]

President's Speech Inaugurates Third TV Channel

LD0512184993 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Speeech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani marking the inauguration of Iranian television's third television channel in Tehran on 5 December—recorded

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Before anything else, I would like to convey my greetings to all the Muslims of the world on the blessed occasion of the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimah, the noble lady of Islam and humanity.

I am very happy to see that the idea came about at the Voice and Vision to increase their activities toward constructive ideological work, filling the people's leisure time in a constructive and effective way.

Today, the Voice and Vision is the biggest instrument for publicizing the message of the revolution, and it is the best center for the promotion and development of people's minds and spirit. We know that no media in our country is as widely listened to as the Vision. With substantial and attractive programs, we can put the message of the revolution at the people's disposal and meet their information needs. And, in all fairness, the people have shown that they benefit from these programs with their intelligence and wisdom and that the programs are not wasted. [passage omitted]

The role played by the Vision, in particular, in mobilizing the people and increasing their vigilance is a miraculous thing. In the Supreme Council for Youth, we have studied issues related to youth at great length. One of our most basic shortcomings for young people today is the absence of attractive programs that are pleasing to youth during their leisure time. Of course, other people also suffer from this problem, but we are more concerned about young people in this case.

The planned third channel can, in our opinion, fill people's leisure time, to a large extent, in a constructive and creative way. Of course, we are not in favor of

simply filling leisure time regardless—not in a detrimental way—because we value every moment of our people's lives, especially of our youth. Thus, when we speak about filling people's leisure time, we mean making the best possible use of it.

Well, the Voice and Vision has laid the ground work. The issue is how we build on this now. I would like to call on everyone who believes he can play a part in developing and strengthening our younger generation and in filling leisure time in a healthy way to take advantage of this opportunity and to give his assistance. I would also like to ask our dear people to appreciate the value of and benefit from these programs, as long as they adhere to the standards suitable to Islam and the revolution.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our brothers and sisters in the Voice and Vision—the honorable artists, the directors, and technicians—and would also like to ask them to pay attention to the quality of programs on this channel, because the programs have been advertised as being both attractive and pleasing. This is important to us. It should make people happy and enthusiastic—happiness with good content, not content that is useless and nonsensical. The people involved will undoubtedly bear this in mind, just as they, in the Voice and Vision, have done up to now.

We will support them, God willing. We hope that it will meet with the satisfaction of the eminent leader of the revolution, who takes great interest in such things and always follows such issues. [passage omitted]

Radio-TV Chief on Goals of Station

LD0512230793 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1505 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Interview with Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hashemi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted].

We are very happy that, under the shadow of God's grace and, through the round-the-clock efforts of our colleagues at the Voice and Vision Organization and the support and guidelines of his eminence the leader, esteemed officials of the country, the government, and the respected Majles deputies, we were able to make another step toward fulfilling the lofty aspirations of the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni], and to inaugurate the third network of the Voice and Vision. I have already spoken briefly about the third channel, but I shall repeat here that the aim of creating this network is to fill the leisure time of the youth and society productively.

Just as you and our Muslim nation is aware, our society is made up of a young population and naturally, today, there are a lot of pitfalls and a host of problems and social diseases that can befall the young; and the Voice and Vision considered and considers that it is its duty to try and always protect the people—notably the youth and the young—and raise their awareness about social and political issues and events in the country and in the world. Evidently this awareness has to be mixed with attraction, in the sense that those who are sitting on the other side of the television—or, as they say, the box—must want to watch our programs and be attracted to them. This will also enable us to have valuable messages for them, within and in between programs at the same time that their free time is being occuptied. It is with this aim that the third network was designed. Of course, I should say that we are at the starting point of our work. [passage omitted].

We began planning in early 1372 [year beginning March 21 1993] and the plan was followed up by our colleagues. Today, we were able to inaugurate this network by benefiting from some of the technical and labor resources of the Voice and Vision as well as newly created facilities. We are now therefore at the starting stage. Ultimately, God willing, both the number of programs will increase and their quality will improve so as to provide a network which will benefit the Islamic society and our youth. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you see the future of the third network?

[Hashemi] The program designs are such that the volume or percentage of sports and sports-related programs will be greater than other programs. The same goes for issues that concern the youth, including psychological issues and young people's questions and queries. There will be more films, serials, and cartoons in forthcoming programs. Special programs will also be carried by the network, and one that has been forecast is what is known today in the world as the Free University—or Open University [preceding two words in English]—which is university education or other kinds of training via television. One of the plans for the future is to cater for science and social science courses, some of which will carry qualifications. Negotiations have been conducted with some universities inside the country and abroad to arrange for the teaching of certain subjects which are suitable for radio and television such as management, sociology, and the humanities. In any case, the overall aim of this network—just like the rest of the Voice and Vision Organization—is to heighten the level of people's awareness, create the appropriate conditions for the productive use of leisure time, and respond to the mental and psychological needs of society. Now this can be done either through educational programs and even university education which I said, can lead to a degree or postgraduate degree, or other educational, information programs. Also, there are sports, light entertainment, and game shows, all within the framework of Islamic values and programs that carry instructive and healthy messages.

[Correspondent] Can provincial centers broadcast programs on this network?

[Hashemi] No. This network is being broadcast from Tehran via satellite. Our provincial centers do not have the technical facilities for broadcasting this network. However, certain measures have been undertaken to allow for the wider reception this network in cities, big towns, and provincial centers. This network's programs can now be seen in the provincial centers and some of the towns of 13 or 14 provinces in the country—I cannot remember exactly how many now. I must mention that about three weeks ago I said in an interview that the network could be received in 10 provinces only but in the space of these past few days our technical colleagues worked round-the-clock and used the facilities of the Voice and Vision, to bring three other provincial centers under coverage—that is East Azerbaijan Province: Tabriz township; West Azerbaijan Province: Urumiyeh township, and Kermanshahan Province: Kermanshah city, which is the provincial center. This means that these three provincial centers can benefit from this network. Just as I mentioned before, so far we have managed to spend very little and we hope that, through the support given to us by the serving government and the esteemed Majles, in the second five-year program in 1373, we may be able to speedily expand our technical facilities and the number and quality of the programs. [passage omitted] God willing, we hope we shall be able to offer more content and variety to cater to all strata and all ages and cultural viewpoints in a way that makes us self-sufficient from others.

Certain measures have also been envisaged and some plans are under way to enable us in the not so distant future to start the international network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic so that our compatriots in other countries and Muslims in other places may be able to enjoy this favor.

All this needs the cooperation and assistance of writers or artists, and we hope they will come to the Voice and Vision and be welcomed by our colleagues so that we may be able to offer people beautiful and meaningful programs.

Friday Imam Says Radio-TV 'Insulting' Majles

NC0512113393 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Nov 93 p 16

[Report by RESALAT correspondent in Hamedan]

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi-Hamedani, the Hamedan Friday imam who is also the deputy of the great leader in Hamedan Province, vehemently criticized the performance of the Voice and Vision and its insults against the people's deputies in the Majles.

Addressing the Friday congregation at Hamedan, he said: In view of the undesirable performance of the Voice and Vision over the past few years, insulting and accusing the representatives of millions of the country's Muslim people is unacceptable.

He said: The research and investigative panel of the Islamic Majles has appraised the 10-year performance of the management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and has presented its report to the people. This report was compiled on the basis of documents and evidence and has been presented for the public's information.

All the positive and negative points of the Voice and Vision's performance have been incorporated in this report. However, without considering the lofty status of the Majles representatives, the Voice and Vision hastily disseminated a response on the radio and, subsequently, in newspapers describing the panel's report as fallacious, it has resorted to harsh accusations against the members of the research and investigative panel of the Islamic Majles. [passage omitted]

Further Criticism of Radio-TV Chief

NC0512074493 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Nov 93 p 2

[Commentary by Mahmud Keykhah: "The Voice and Vision Director Is Not an Interpreter of the Constitution!"]

[Excerpts] The Majles research and investigative panel on the Voice and Vision's performance has become the most controversial subject in domestic circles. [passage omitted]

The most salient and vital issue that should be examined is whether the domestic bodies of the government have a right to interfere in the obligations of one another and to disrupt the statutory process in society.

This process is the fruit of the efforts of a great nation and of the blood shed by thousands of revered martyrs. The Constitution is the valuable honor of the Islamic system and is endowed with sublime sanctity that should not be garbed with the different leanings of individuals.

Wherever there is any nebulous or ambiguous point in the Constitution, the Guardians' Council (that is, three-fourths) [as published], under special circumstances, is the authority for eliminating such ambiguities and for providing interpretations, as has been spelled out in Article 96. In more minor cases, with regard to normal regulations, the interpretation of the text is within the jurisdiction of the Islamic Majles.

Article 73 stipulates that the government should not interpret the laws on self-styled pretexts and should not resort to interpreting the laws and legislation or to disrupting the legislative framework of the system for their own benefit. Violating the boundaries and seeking to generate anarchy—that is, ignoring of the will of the nation and giving priority to their personal inclinations—is a danger that all should be warned against.

Five People Convicted of Kidnapping Hanged in Qom

NC0512095793 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 (AFP)—Five people convicted of kidnapping were hanged in public in the religious city of Qom in central Iran, the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper reported Sunday [5 December].

The five, accused of being the "corrupt of the earth" by a revolutionary court, were executed at dawn on Thursday, it said.

They were also accused of drinking alcohol, using drugs and committing "obscene acts" with their captives.

While the executions were carried out, bystanders chanted slogans in support of Qom's prosecutor Hojjat ol-Eslam Nekunam and the court rulings, according to the paper.

Nekunam, who was present at the hangings, warned "corrupt elements" that the authorities would step up their crackdown on criminals, it said.

There has been a spate of executions in Iran in recent months, with several dozen people convicted of murder, drug-trafficking and other crimes being hanged nationwide.

Pakistan

PRC's Li Ruihuan Arrives for Weeklong Visit

Received at Airport

BK0412103493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Chairman Li Ruihuan arrived in Islamabad today with a high-level delegation for a weeklong visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by, among others, the Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad.

Sajjad, Li Ruihuan Speak at Banquet

BK0512063493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Li Ruihuan, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], have said that Pakistan and China have endeavored to establish good-neighborly and tension-free relations with countries in the region. Speaking at a banquet he hosted in honor of Li Ruihuan in Islamabad last night, the Senate chairman reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to maintain the traditional relationship of close friendship and cooperation with China. He said the friendship between the two countries is a model interstate relationship that other countries should emulate.

Wasim Sajjad said both Pakistan and China desire peace, stability, and development in South Asia. Pakistan has consistently worked to establish tension-free and cordial relations with countries in the region. Pakistan understands that the greatest stumbling block to the establishment of peace and stability in the region is the Kashmir dispute, and the resolution of this long-standing issue will usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in South Asia. It is in this spirit that Pakistan and India have agreed to hold a dialogue at the foreign secretarial-level to resolve their outstanding issues, including Kashmir. The Senate chairman called upon India to halt repressive activities in occupied Kashmir in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the dialogue.

Speaking on the occasion, Li Ruihuan said we have always supported each other, and his country will never forget the fact that it was only Pakistan which had paved the way for China to be recognized at the international level at a very difficult time. The CPPCC chairman expressed the hope that the South Asian countries will remove obstacles in the way of their bilateral relationship on the basis of negotiations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Earlier, Wasim Sajjad and Li Ruihuan exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest, with particular reference to the nuclear and Kashmir issues. The Senate chairman drew Li Ruihuan's attention to Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir, and said a settlement of the Kashmir dispute is necessary to ensure peace in the region.

Kashmir Said 'Main' Snag in Peace

BK0512144393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated that the Kashmir dispute is the main obstacle in establishment of peace in the region and its resolution will help in bringing stability in South Asia. This was stated by the Senate Chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, as he addressed the reception in honor of the chairman of the popular Political Consultative Conference of China, Mr. Li Ruihuan. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan expects that India will stop its atrocities in Kashmir to create a positive atmosphere for the talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries. The Senate chairman said the friendship of Pakistan and China is exemplary for other nations of the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Li Ruihuan expressed confidence that the countries of South Asia will remove all obstacles in the normalization of their relations through dialogue and on the basis of peaceful coexistence. He said China will never forget the fact that Pakistan has stood by it against every effort to isolate it.

The speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, has said Pakistan is proud of its time-tested friendship with the People's Republic of China which has emerged as the major Asian power and is playing a very positive role for stability and peace in the region. He was talking to Mr. Li Ruihuan, chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in Islamabad today. Briefing the delegation on Kashmir, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan desired tension-free and good-neighborly relations with all

countries in the region, including India. He said Kashmir is the main irritant in Indo-Pak relations. The leader of the high-powered Chinese delegtion, Mr. Li Ruihuan said relations between Pakistan and China are multifaceted and multichanneled and are growing and expanding day by day.

Li Ruihuan Meets With President

BK0612062093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Li Ruihuan, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad last evening and exchanged views on various regional and international issues. Welcoming the Chinese leader, the president expressed satisfaction at the present friendly and cordial relations between the two countries. Li Ruihuan emphasized the need for peace and stability in the region and said this will contribute to the economic development of the region.

Li Ruihuan Confers With Bhutto

BK0612143793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] China says development of good-neighborly relations d cooperation with Pakistan remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy. This was stated by Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr. Li Ruihuan during meeting with Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. Extending a very warm welcome to the Chinese leader and the members of his delegation, the prime minister said her late father had once described the friendship between Pakistan and China as tall as the Himalayas and a model relationship between neighboring states which others could emulate. The prime minister said that the people of Pakistan deeply appreciated all that China has done for the economic development of Pakistan. The prime minister expressed confidence that her forthcoming visit to China would renew and strengthen the traditional ties of friendship and expand the avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

Conveying warm greetings and good wishes to the prime minister on behalf of Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Li Peng, the Chinese leader said the Chinese Government and people are eagerly looking forward to the prime minister's visit to China. He reiterated that the development of good-neighborly relations and cooperation with Pakistan remains a cornerstone of China's foreign policy. Pakistan has been China's closest and most reliable friend and has stood by it through thick and thin, Mr. Li said, adding that the deepening of friendship between Pakistan and China would enhance peace and stability in South Asia. Mr. Li Ruihuan eulogized the great efforts made by late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to the cause of Pakistan-China friendship and said the Chinese people would always cherish his memory.

PRC's Military Chief Meets Leghari, Bhutto

Ties 'Cornerstone' of Foreign Policy

BK0212150593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, today conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Military, on the chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Zhang Wannian, in Islamabad. General Zhang Wannian called on the president and discussed matters of regional and bilateral interests with him. The president appreciated the warm and friendly ties between the two countries. He lauded the cooperation between China and Pakistan. Later, in an impressive investiture ceremony, the president decorated General Zhang Wannian with Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Military. The award has been conferred in recognition of his valuable services in promoting relations between Pakistan and China. The chairman, Joint Chief of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan; defense secretary; ambassador of China to Pakistan, Mr. (Zhao Gong); and other high military and civil officials attended the investiture ceremony.

General Zhang Wannian also called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, at the Prime Minister's House. The prime minister recalled the time-tested friendship between China and Pakistan and observed that Chinese friendship transcends geopolitical changes. She further said strengthening of relations with China in all fields is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The prime minister briefed the Chinese general about the serious situation in Indian-held Kashmir with massive violations of human rights. The Chinese general warmly reciprocated the prime minister's sentiments and said Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng is eagerly looking forward to the prime minister's forthcoming visit to China. Substantive discussions would take place to further cement the friendly ties between China and Pakistan during the talks. The Chinese general said he was satisfied with the present status of defense cooperation between Pakistan and China and was confident that the relationship between the armed forces of the two countries would continue to further develop in the mutual interests of both countries.

General Zhang Wannian also visited the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi this morning. General Zhang Wannian along with members of his entourage called on the Joint Chief of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan. He discussed with him matters of professional interests. The meeting was followed by a detailed briefing on security environment of Pakistan.

Delegation Visits Afghan Border

BK0412035993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] General Zhang Wannian, chief of the Chinese General Staff, has said that his country will stand behind

its friend, Pakistan, in every moment of trial. He made these observations during a tour of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and the Khyber Pass. The Chinese general and his delegation viewed the historic Khyber Pass aboard a military helicopter. At Michni Post, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the Chinese guests were briefed on the historic and strategic importance of the Khyber Pass and on the role the Frontier Corps played in defending this region during the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Accord Signed on Defense Gear Purchase

BK0412143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Under an agreement signed in Rawalpindi today, China will provide credit facilities to Pakistan for procurement of defense equipment. The agreement was signed by the Director General of Defense Production, Rear Admiral Khalid Mahmud Akhtar, and China's senior Color (Li Andong). The Chinese Chief of General Staff General Zhang Wannian, and senior Pakistani officials were also present on the occasion. The agreement will further promote mutual cooperation and strengthen bonds of friendship between the armed forces of the two countries.

Defense Minister Leaves for Visit to Beijing

BK0212155993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has left Karachi for Beijing today on a 3-day official visit to China. He will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart on matters pertaining to cooperation between the two countries in the defense production sector.

Russian Envoy, Leghari Discuss Ties, Kashmir

BK0212144193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The ambassador of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr U. Aleksiyev, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today and dicussed with him various aspects of bilateral relations. The president said the government attaches great importance to Pakistan's ties with the Russian Federation and is anxious to further promote them. He emphasized that recent developments in the region have opened up vistas for closer cooperation between the two countries in a variety of fields which must be fully exploited.

Ambassador Aleksiyev conveyed to the president his government's strong desire to further strengthen relations with Pakistan. He said the Russian Federation is keen to inject new substance and strengthening relations with Pakistan through collaborative projects. About the regional situation, the Russian ambassador said his country would do whatever it could to promote peace and harmony in the region. To this end, the Russian Federation would keep trying for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue.

Need for Senator Pressler's Visit Questioned

BK0312103993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Dec 93 pp 1, 10

[Article by Kaleem Omar: "Why Is US Senator Larry Pressler Coming to Pakistan?"]

[Text] Karachi—Why is US Senator Larry Pressler, the author of the Pressler Amendment, coming to Pakistan? The Foreign Office says that, during his visit, Pressler will be briefed about Pakistan's point of view on the nuclear issue. But if that is the only reason for his coming here, he might as well not bother to come because he is well aware of Pakistan's point of view on this issue, unless, of course, that point of view has changed with the induction of the Benazir Bhutto government.

On more than one occasion in recent days, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that there was "no question" of Pakistan's nuclear programme being rolled back. The same theme was echoed by Sardar Assef Ali the other day when he said, shortly after being appointed minister for foreign affairs, that the Benazir government intended to pursue basically the same policy on the nuclear issue and other foreign policy issues as previous governments.

That being the case, what need is there for Pressler to come to Pakistan? Of course, since this is a free country which any foreigner holding a valid Pakistani visa is free to visit, we can't stop Pressler coming here if he wants to. But people like him don't come to this part of the world unless there is a good reason for them do so. Which is to say, they don't come here for the climate, not even in winter.

In January 1992, when Pressler was last here, he said at a press conference in Islamabad that Pakistan should "publicly dismantle its nuclear facilities." Is that why he is coming here again to tell the Benazir government what he told the Nawaz Sharif government two years ago? If so, he should be given short shrift by the Foreign Office.

Pressler is nobody to tell Pakistan that it should roll back its nuclear programme or dismantle its nuclear facilities. His suggestion is all the more unacceptable coming as it does from a representative of a country which has the biggest nuclear arsenal in the world, an arsenal big enough to blow up the world several times over.

If Pressler is as keen on nuclear non-proliferation as he claims to be, why has he never demanded that Israel, which is known to possess over 200 nuclear weapons dismantle its nuclear facilities? Is one to take it from this that Pressler thinks that while nuclear weapons in Israel's hands are okay, nuclear weapons in Pakistan's hands are not?

Nor has Pressler ever demanded that India, which now has an estimated 35 to 40 nuclear weapons, dismantle its nuclear facilities. But it is Pakistan which has to live with the threat of an India armed with nuclear weapons. During his visit to Pakistan last year, Pressler tried to pooh pooh the threat when he said at his press conference in Islamabad that India's nuclear programme was a "peaceful" one.

In saying this, however, Pressler was only echoing India's oft-repeated claim that the nuclear device it had exploded in the Rajasthan desert back in 1974 was "peaceful" in nature. But neither the Indians, nor any other nuclear power for that matter, has yet been able to demonstrate any peaceful uses for nuclear explosions. All nuclear explosive devices are nuclear weapons, plain and simple, and have only military applications.

At his Islamabad press conference, Pressler had attempted to get around this point by claiming that India had "abandoned" its nuclear weapons development programme. "It is true that they exploded a device in 1974, but they then abandoned that path, "he said. Asked what evidence he had to support that claim, Pressler referred to statements to that effect made by the Indian government. How naive can one get?

The truth of the matter is that India has never given up its nuclear weapons programme and is still going ahead with it full steam. Not only does it possess nuclear weapons, it is now believed to be developing thermonuclear weapons. More than 20 Indian research establishments are involved in the country's nuclear programme. India has also test-fired medium-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons to Pakistan. It is also developing a long-range missile which, according to some experts, will be capable of hitting targets in China's heartland.

When he was here last, Pressler said that his view of the respective purposes of India's and Pakistan's nuclear programmes had been "confirmed" by the findings of assessments carried out recently by the American CIA and the State Department. "Our technical people who do these sorts of things say that India has dropped its nuclear programme," he said. He added: "On the other hand, these same technical people have determined that Pakistan is going ahead with its nuclear programme."

Again, how naive can one get? For one thing, it is a known fact that both the CIA and the State Department frequently doctor their reports of other countries' supposed activities to fit whatever view of the world the US government happens to pushing at that time.

These days, in the words of US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, who recently visited Pakistan, the view being pushed by the Clinton administration is: "Non-proliferation, non-proliferation, non-proliferation."

Responding to Pressler's diatribe last year against Pakistan's nuclear programme, a Foreign Office spokesman had said at the time that Pakistan wanted "a regional solution" to non-proliferation. The Foreign Office echoed virtually the same theme on Wednesday when a Foreign Office spokesman was quoted as saying that Pakistan would accept inspection of its nuclear installations only on "a regional basis."

"Consultations on this issue continue from time to time, including with the United States, but we will accept inspection only on a regional basis," the Foreign Office spokesman said. Reiterating the country's broad policy objectives on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, the spokesman said it should be "on a non-discriminatory basis and create a reasonable balance in conventional armed strength" between India and Pakistan.

Is that why Pressler is coming to Pakistan: to be told all this yet again by Foreign Office and other government officials? Or could there be some other reason for his visit?

India Reminded of Pledge To Rebuild Mosque

BK0612061093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged India to rebuild the Babri mosque, which was destroyed by Hindu fanatics a year ago, on its original site. The Foreign Office, in a statement on the first anniversary of the desecration of the historic mosque, said the government and people of Pakistan believe that reconstruction of the Babri mosque on its original site will be a significant and positive step which will be warmly welcomed by the Islamic world. The statement said the Indian Government made a solemn pledge to rebuild the Babri mosque on its original site after its demolition. The Indian Government has been repeatedly reminded of its pledge during the last year. The statement said it is highly regrettable that reconstruction of the mosque has not been undertaken so far. The statement urged the Indian Government to fulfill its commitment to rebuilding the Babri mosque in consultation with the Indian Muslim community.

President Pledges Moral Support To Kashmiris

BK0412110593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Pakistan will continue its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people until the goal of independence of Kashmir has been achieved. Addressing Kashmiri refugees in tent villages near (Angor) locality near Muzaffarabad, he said that Pakistan will never deviate from its principled stand in this regard. He said that Pakistan has deep blood ties, as well as religious and cultural relations with the Kashmiri people that cannot be ignored at any cost. Paying glowing tributes to the Kashmiri people for their unique sacrifices, the president said it has drawn the attention of the world to the gross human rights violations and massacres committed by the Indian troops in Kashmir. He expressed the hope that the Kashmiri people will soon achieve their goal. He

said the present government of Pakistan has directed all its diplomatic missions abroad to project the Kashmiri issue as a major problem of the Pakistanis there.

He announced a grant of 500,000 rupees to buy blankets and warm clothes for the Kashmiri refugees.

Concern Expressed Over 'Tense' Afghan Situation

BK0212043693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan is in touch with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Afghan Leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud with a view to assisting the settlement of the Afghan dispute. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad expressed concern at the tense situation in Afghanistan as a result of which innocent lives have been lost and property damaged. The spokesman said Pakistan authorities during their meetings with Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsala and Deputy Prime Minister Qutbuddin Helal had emphasized to them that a military solution of the problem is not possible. He said Pakistan is committed to play its role in forging an agreement between the rival Afghan groups without favoring any side.

Benazir Bhutto Elected PPP Chairperson

BK0512145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has unanimously elected Ms. Benazir Bhutto as the chairperson of the party. The Central Exective Committee met in Lahore on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the foundation day of the Pakistan People's Party. The prime minister presided over the meeting which was attended by 33 out of 35 members of the Central Executive Committee. A resolution to elect Ms. Benazir Bhutto as chairperson of the party was moved by the Secretary General of the Party, sheikh Rafiq Ahmad. [passage omitted]

Sharif 'Willing To Support' Antidefection Bill

BK0312163493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] The president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said his party is willing to support the Antidefection Bill in Parliament to check horse-trading. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening, he said he will not hold talks with the prime minister on national issues. He alleged that the by-elections were rigged, and in such a situation the talks would not yield positive results.